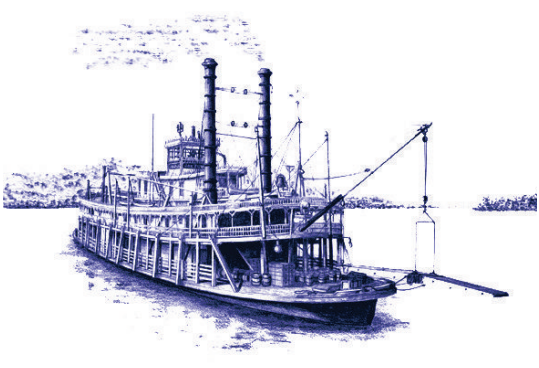




THE MADISON COURIER

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2025 *Serving the Courier area since 1837* NEWSSTAND • \$1.75

Coal property neighbors sue city over rezoning

BY BOB DEMAREE

A lawsuit was filed Wednesday against the city of Madison following City Council's adoption last month of a new Riverfront Development zone in a three block area north of Vaughn Drive.

The suit was filed by Tina Stambaugh, Richard Ice, Shina Murdock, Tracey Chambers, Mark Dare and Auxier Investments LLD, all entities whose views could be affected by construction on the former Madison Coal Company property on the northeast corner of Jefferson Street and Vaughn Drive that is owned by the city and targeted for development.

"All of the plaintiffs are people who will lose their view," said local resident Robert Staicer, an opponent of Riverfront Development zone who said he volunteered after the Plan Commission voted in August to recommend City Council adoption of the new district.

"Those folks have come up to me, and have contacted me, and I have been in touch with them, and I had a list of them, so I am very interested in helping them not lose their view," said Staicer, who believes illegal procedures were followed in adopting the zoning change, and "the decision deserves to be overturned."

Madison Mayor Bob Courtney

SEE **COAL/PAGE A2**



Workers for All Star Paving, of Seymour, apply crosswalks, directional arrows and striping to a newly paved section of Main Street in Madison.

Milling, paving on Main Street expected to be done soon

BY BOB DEMAREE

Rain during the last week of October delayed milling and paving work on Main Street but city officials were optimistic at Monday's Board of Public Works and Safety meeting that it will be near completion in the next couple of weeks.

"We're seeing great progress on the project," said Chris Hale, the city's Director of Streets, Facilities and Solid Waste, despite delaying work due to wet conditions Oct. 27-31. "The rain makes it so they can't pack the roads and they can't put the pavement down, especially with a milled surface and rain, it tends to hold the water," said Hale. "We still have a good opportunity this week and next (week) to get paving complete and the striping."

Madison Mayor Bob Courtney said

SEE **MAIN/PAGE A6**

Veterans Day events, closings

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Veterans Day commemorates the service of all U.S. veterans on Tuesday that includes events and governmental office closings throughout the Courierarea.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Madison Consolidated High School's Veterans Day program and breakfast will be Tuesday with breakfast 7-8:20 a.m. in the auxiliary gym, and the program beginning at 8:30 a.m. at Connor K. Salm Gymnasium. The community is invited.

Shawe Memorial High School and Pope John Elementary School will have a Veterans Day program Tuesday, Nov. 11, The event will be held at Pope John, beginning at 9 a.m., with a breakfast for veterans and their families followed by a speech and prayer with the National Anthem played by Victor Pacheco.

Southwestern Elementary School will have a Veterans Day program Tuesday, Nov. 11, at 9:15 a.m. in the elementary gymnasium. Prior to the assembly, veterans are welcome to enjoy a short breakfast with donuts, muffins and juice in the Southwestern board room

at 8:30 a.m.

Rykers' Ridge Elementary School will be honoring veterans with a special program Tuesday, Nov. 11, at 1:30 p.m. at the Rykers' Ridge Elementary Gymnasium.

Canaan Community Academy will have a Veterans Day program Friday, Nov. 7, at 9 a.m.

There will be a Veterans Day Celebration Tuesday at 4 p.m. at Frank Baldwin Hunter Hall, 400 West Vaughn Drive (upstairs at the Crystal Beach pool house), Madison, with a meal, music and fellowship.

VFW Post 1969 will host a free breakfast for veterans Saturday, Nov. 8, from 7:30-10:30 a.m.

Samuel Woodfill American Legion Post 9 will host a free breakfast for veterans Tuesday, Nov. 11, from 8-11 a.m.

CARROLL COUNTY

On Tuesday, Nov. 11, Kathryn Winn Primary School will have donuts with veterans at 8:30 a.m., Carroll County High School will have a Veterans Day luncheon at 11 a.m. in the marketplace shop. Carroll County Middle School will have an assembly with

SEE **VETS/PAGE A6**

Charlie's Beat: MadHop is putting Madison on the map

As Madison continues to build its brand as Indiana's Music City, our festivals play a crucial role in the success of the effort. Our music events create visibility and impact far beyond our city limits, showcasing what is special and fun about our town to a larger outside audience. The annual MadHop Fest is a crown jewel in our music tourism identity.

"Well over half our ticket sales every year are to out-of-town music lovers," explains Tony Novello, founder and primary driving force behind MadHop. "These are people who are drawn in by the promise of a memorable day of great music, but then they leave Madison with a broader appreciation for the entire town ... the beauty, the friendliness, the energy. I think it's pretty safe to say we've created hundreds of Madison superfans in the years we've been doing this, maybe even thousands.

"That's what's kind of different about our event from the typical big festivals down at Bicentennial Park. Ours is more intimate, and more integrated with the downtown identity of Madison. That's very important to us, that we draw folks into the core shopping and dining district, not away from it. Our attendees get a more complete and satisfying experience of what it means to visit and enjoy our unique town.

"The special character of MadHop is both a blessing and a challenge," continues Tony. "One of the main things people love about MadHop is the intimacy of the venues and their close proximity, all within easy walking distance of each other. But on the other hand, we do want to evolve and grow the festival. The question is how to do that without losing the magic!"

MadHop fans can rest assured that the core personality of the event remains the same. But there are some notable changes this year. "Probably the biggest change is we've gone from a one-day to a two-day format," explains Tony. "We have six acts on Friday night, to go along with the 31 shows on Saturday. Another exciting addition is we have Mad Paddle Brewery back as a venue, which is a great place to see live music.

"Another adjustment we've

CHARLIE ROHLFING

SEE BEAT/PAGE A3

MADHOP FOUNDER TONY NOVELLO



64 41
High Low
Details, Page A2

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DEATHS, A2

Ronald Graves Rodney May	Mary McClanahan Jean Picard	Clifford Roberts Sr.
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8 51633 00100 7



Community Veterans Day Program

Honoring All Who Served

Tuesday, November 11, 2025

Veteran's breakfast and roll call registration 7 - 8:20 am

MCHS Auxiliary Gym

Community Program begins at 8:30 am

Connor K. Salm Gymnasium

We invite you to attend one of our upcoming **OPEN Substitute Teacher Training** sessions to learn more!

Tuesday, November 11, 2025, at 3 pm

Friday, November 14, 2025, at 9 am or 3 pm

Monday, November 24, 2025, at 3:30 pm

2421 Wilson Ave., Madison, IN

Per diem rates:
\$97.50 - HS diploma,
\$105 - Associate's or 60+ hours
\$120 - IN licensed or retired teacher or Bachelor's from an accredited institution

It is the policy of Madison Consolidated Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, or age, in its programs or employment policies as required by the Indiana Civil Rights Act (I.C. 1975, 22-9-1); Public Law 218 (I.C. 1973, Title 20); Titles VI and VII (Civil Rights Act 1964); the Equal Pay Act of 1973; Title IX (1972 Education Amendments); Public Law 94-142; and Public Law 93-112, Section 504.

MPD investigating downtown stabbing

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Madison Police Department (MPD) detectives are investigating the stabbing of an adult male at Second and Mulberry streets in the early morning hours of Sunday, Nov. 2. Officers from MPD and

the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office responded to the scene after receiving a call concerning an adult male with an apparent stab wound. When they arrived, they secured the scene and rendered aid to the man. Additionally, a nearby apartment believed to be

connected to the incident was also secured and a search warrant obtained. Several adults and juveniles were initially detained, and multiple knives were recovered from both scenes. The adult male was transferred to a Louisville area hospital for

treatment. The investigation remains ongoing at this time. No immediate arrests have been made. Anyone with information about the incident is asked to contact Detective Ricky Harris with the Madison Police Department at 812-274-0429.

NEWS OF RECORD

JEFFERSON COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER Lodgings Nov. 3, 2025

Robert D. Collins, 42, Clarksville, Indiana, to hold for Indiana Department of Correction for Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. No bond.

Alice Marie Petro, 52, Lawrenceburg, Indiana, to serve 7 days jail, concurrent, on a court-ordered sentencing. No bond.

Nov. 3, 2025

Gregory S. Case, 53, Deputy, Indiana, on a Jefferson County probation violation warrant (resisting law enforcement, criminal recklessness, pointing a firearm and criminal trespass). Bond \$5,000 cash.

Jose Guadalupe Gonzalez Romero, 45, for Possession of Cocaine or Narcotic Drug and Resisting Law Enforcement, both Level 6 felonies; and Operating Without Ever Obtaining a Driver's License, a Class C misdemeanor. No bond.

JEFFERSON COUNTY CIRCUIT & SUPERIOR COURT Sentencings Oct. 31, 2025

Vincente Jara Chiguil, 44, Louisville, for Operating Without a Valid License, a Class C misdemeanor. Sentenced to zero days jail; plus \$439.50 in fines and court costs.

Nov. 3, 2025

Jamie Sue Dionne, 46, Madison, Operating While Intoxicated, a Class C misdemeanor. Sentenced to 60 days jail with credit for 2 days jail served and balance suspended to \$489.50 in fees and court costs,.

Joshua Maurice Eggers, 43, Madison, to amended charges of Criminal Recklessness Committed With a Deadly Weapon, a Level 6 felony; and Operating a Vehicle While Intoxicated, a Class A misdemeanor. Sentenced to 545 days at Indiana Department of Correction on the felony, with credit for 148 days jail served and 397 days suspended to supervised probation, concurrent to 365 days jail on the misdemeanor with credit for 148 days jail served and 217 days suspended to supervised probation, plus loss of driver's license for 180 days and \$589.50 in fees and court costs,

Damian Michael Lee Collins, 26, Borden, Indiana, for Possession of Marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor. Sentenced to 180 days jail with credit for 4 days jail served and 176 days suspended to supervised probation plus \$489 in fees and court costs.

Michele Rand Pennington, 35, Hanover, to an amended charge of Neglect of Dependent, a Level 6 felony with Judgment of Conviction as a Class A misdemeanor. Sentenced to 365 days jail with credit for 4 days jail served and 361

days suspended to supervised probation plus \$589 in fees and court costs.

Amber Bowder, 45, Peru, Indiana, to an amended charge of Possession of Methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. Sentenced to 180 days at Indiana Department of Correction, fully executed, with credit for 54 days jail served plus \$789 in fees and court costs.

Nov. 4, 2025

Tavist D. Barnes, 30, Carrollton, Kentucky, to an amended charge of Intimidation, a Level 5 felony. Sentenced to 1,095 days at Indiana Department of Correction, with credit for 143 days jail served and 952 days suspended to supervised probation plus \$589 in fees and court costs.

Catelin Dawn Clemons, 28, Madison, for Possession of Methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony; and Possession of Paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. Sentenced to 545 days at Indiana Department of Correction on the felony, all suspended to supervised probation, consecutive to 20 days at the Jefferson County Jail on the misdemeanor, fully executed, served, consecutive to prior suspended sentencing for possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, plus \$989 in fees and court costs.

Justin S. Perry, 47, Madison, to amended charges of Possession of Methamphetamine, a Level 5 felony; and Theft of an Entire Motor Vehicle, a Level 6 felony. Sentenced to 1,095 days at Indiana Department of Correction on the drug charge, fully executed, with credit for 144 days jail served, consecutive to 365 days on the theft charge, all suspended, plus \$989 in fees and court costs and restitution in an mount to be determined.

Joel Andrews Toth, 30, Madison, to an amended charge of Harboring a Non-immunized Animal, a Class B misdemeanor. Sentenced to 180 days at Jefferson County Jail, with credit for 2 days jail served and 178 days suspended to unsupervised probation plus \$189 in court costs.

Christopher Lee Cline, 19, Nabb, Indiana, for Theft, a Level 6 felony. Sentenced to 545 days at Indiana Department of Correction, with credit for 10 days jail served and 535 days suspended to supervised probation plus \$589 in fees and court costs and restitution in the amount of \$5,533.69 to Kroger.

Christopher P. Sharp, 19, Carrollton, Kansas, to an amended charge of Theft, a Level 6 felony. Sentenced to 545 days at Indiana Department of Correction, with credit for 172 days jail served and 373 days suspended to supervised probation plus \$589 in fees and court costs and restitution in an amount to be deter-

mined.

Justin Bailey Hooker, 24, Hanover, to an amended charge of Criminal Confinement, a Level 6 felony. Sentenced to 730 days at Indiana Department of Correction with 365 days executed, credit for 150 days jail served and the balance suspended to 365 days supervised probation plus \$589 in fees and court costs.

Emma Cheylene Grubbs, 27, Madison, to an amended charge of Possession of Methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. Sentenced to 545 days at Indiana Department of Correction, with credit for 136 days jail served and 409 days jail suspended to supervised probation plus \$989 in fees and court costs.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS Jefferson County Nov. 3, 2025

Michael W. Bush and Cynthia L. Bush to Bush Family Farms LLC, approximately 43.75 acres at 8000+ West State Road 362 Nabb.

Marty W. Irwin, Richard D. Irwin (trustees) and Barbara I. Irwin (revocable trust) to Dennis K. O'Neal, 5245 West 1050 North, Dupont.

Paul David Voris and Emily Beth Flinn to Michael Miller, 4000+ West Ten Cent road, Hanover.

Jerry L. Dougan and Donna J. Dougan to Swift Property Buying LLC, 1835 Green Hills Drive, Madison.

Nov. 4, 2025

Aaron Charles Lewis Husby and Iver B. Husby to Guy Townsend and Jeanne Townsend, 300 Hillcrest Drive, Madison.

Annie's Real Estate LLC to Linda Locke, 947 West Second Street, Madison.

Joseph A. Beachy and Rhonda Marie Beachy to Cody Arbuckle and Emily Richardson, 459 South Thompson Road, Lexington.

Gregory Howard and Shirley Howard to James R. Grant, 887 Vine Street, Madison.

Tyler J. Groves and Kaylan R. Groves to Jason G. Anderson and Susan R. Anderson, 6.957 acres at 6400+ West Interstate Block Road, Madison.

Jason G. Anderson and Susan R. Anderson to Tyler J. Groves and Kaylan R. Groves, 6.957 acres at 6404 West Interstate Block Road, Madison.

Nov. 5, 2025

Thomas E. Kemp and Carolyn J. Kemp to Thomas E. Kemp and Carolyn J. Kemp (trustees) Thomas and Carolyn Kemp Revocable Trust and Thomas E. Kemp and Carolyn J. Kemp (life estate), approximately 80 acres at 9575 and 9500+ West Polk Road, Lexington.

Steven Drake Miner to Adam Ristich (transferee death), 723 East First Street, Madison.

na Skylark to perform Sunday at Picker House

BY THE COURIER STAFF

na Skylark will perform Sunday, Nov. 9, at 3 p.m. at the Picker House, 110 St. Michaels Avenue.

na Skylark is a Central-Kentucky-based trio that shares ancient traditional Celtic music through voice, Irish harp, Irish

uilleann pipes, Irish fiddle, Irish whistles, flutes, Irish bodhran and a little Appalachian mountain dulciner. The group's members are Lorinda Jones, Cathy Wilde, and Jannell Canerday.

The concert, presented by the Madison Performing Arts Commission, is free. Donations are appreciated.

Lotteries

INDIANA Hoosier Lotto 18-35-37-39-45-46 (11/5). Estimated Jackpot: \$5.5 million. Next Drawing (11/8) Cash Five: 6-13-16-35-42 (11/5) Cash 4 Life: 9-13-26-47-53 CB: 3 (11/5)	MEGAMILLIONS: 11-14-17-50-57 MB: 6 (11/4) Next Jackpot: \$843 million. Next Drawing (11/7) POWERBALL: 9-17-29-61-66 PB: 26, PP5 (11/5). Next Estimated Jackpot: \$467 million. Next Drawing (11/8) POWERBALL DOUBLE PLAY: 7-10-18-21-61 PB: 11 (11/5). Next Estimated Jackpot: Up to \$10 million. Next Drawing (11/8)
KENTUCKY Cash Ball: 7-12-25-27 CB: 20 (11/5) Lucky For Life: 9-12-29-38-43 LB: 15 (11/5)	

WEATHER

Sunrise: 7:14 a.m. Sunset: 5:36 p.m. Temperature: High 62, Low 44, Mean 53.0, Excess 3.9 Precipitation since last published: 0 Precipitation, November 2025: 0 Precipitation, 2025: 50.86	Barometer 30.10, Rising River Level at Clifty Creek: 422.01 feet, Rising Forecast: Saturday: Partly cloudy High 65/Low 43; Sunday: Cloudy High 47/Low 27; Monday: Snow showers High 38/Low 25; Tuesday: Partly cloudy High 45/Low 38.
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BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Editor's Note: Got a birthday or anniversary coming up? Send name, date and number of years (optional) to zelda@madison-courier.com or call 812-265-3641. Please leave your name and phone number in case we have followup questions.	Angela Hamilton Nov. 10 Joe Chandler Mary Ritchie Nov. 12 Laura Hodges Anne Saxe Kay Stokes Nov. 13 Dan Thurston Nov. 16 Marilyn Allen Nancy Barker Nov. 17 David Carlow Debbie Perry
BIRTHDAYS Nov. 7 Shelly Murphy Smith Nov. 8 Angela Hamilton Nov. 9 Matt Ernstes	ANNIVERSARIES None

COAL

FROM PAGE A1

on Thursday disputed allegations raise by the lawsuit. "The City of Madison followed all state and local statutes throughout its adoption process of the new riverfront zoning district. It was part of a larger project evaluating every zoning district in the city. The rezoning received a favorable recommendation

from the plan commission and was adopted by city council. Lawsuits like this unnecessarily consume time and money but we will vigorously defend the actions of the city and our efforts to solve chronic housing issues in our community."

Staicer said although he is not a plaintiff in the lawsuit, he supports the effort to "turn over and undo the zoning change" which he claims was "illegally motivated." He noted the

litigation also seeks to prevent an proposed apartment building from being constructed at the site. "If there is no apartment building, then there is no loss of the river view, then there is no need for compensatory damages."

The lawsuit notes the city's comprehensive plan recognizes the riverfront district is in the 100-year flood plain, and parks, open space and cultural amenities are "the only land-use designation appropriate for

consideration in the 100-year flood plan." The lawsuit also claims that development would be harmful to the plaintiffs because it would impede their view of the Ohio River.

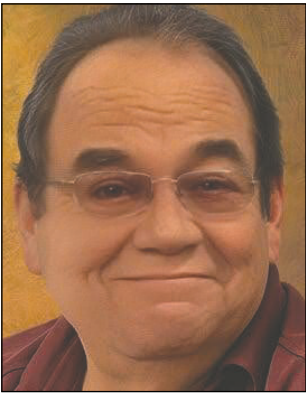
Stambaugh, Ice, Murdock and Chambers each have homes in the 100 block of Jefferson Street, while Dare has a home in the 300 block of First Street. Meanwhile, Auxier Investments LLP owns property at 701 Vaughn Drive.

OBITUARY

Rodney Ray May

Rodney Ray May, age 66, of Kent, IN, entered this life on March 11, 1959, in Scottsburg, IN. He was the son of Ivan Ray May and his loving mother, Mildred Louise "Millie" Smith Russom. He resided most of his life in Jefferson County and graduated from Southwestern High School in Hanover, IN. He studied liberal arts at Ivy Tech Community College. On Sept. 2, 1989, he was united in marriage to Pamela Jean Hampton in Lexington, IN. They shared 30 years of marriage together until her sudden death on July 25, 2019. He had worked as an over the road truck driver and had worked as a teacher at the Women's prison in Madison, and later as a substitute teacher at Southwestern Schools. He had taught special needs kids at Southwestern Schools as well for several years. For a time, he worked as a welder for Williamson Heater in Madison, and at the Marble Hill Nuclear Site. He had owned Ray's Carpet Service in Hanover, IN. While working at Marble Hill, he served as the union president. He enjoyed art, painting, sculpting can art, motorcycles, horseback riding, line dancing, telling jokes, and scuba diving. He had attended New Hope Baptist Church and the Jefferson County Saddle Club. Ray died on Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025, at 10:52 a.m., at his home in Kent, IN.

Ray will be missed by his loving mother, Mildred Louise "Millie" Smith Russom of Bay City, TX; his loving stepdaughters, who he referred to as his girls, Laura Cleek of Lexington, IN, Jennifer Hutton of Fort Myers, FL, Angela Duffy and her husband, Tim of Cincinnati, OH; his beloved grandchildren, Trevor Robbins, Cindy



Johnson, Cori Canavan; his adoring great granddaughter, Nova Ray "Sugar Pie" Robbins; his brother, Rob May and his wife, Sherri of Seymour, IN; his sisters, Laura Murphy and her husband, Billy of Crosby, TX, Deana Mabe and her husband, Robert of Victoria, TX; several sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

He was preceded in death by beloved wife, Pamela Jean Hampton May, July 25, 2019, and his father, Ivan Ray May.

Funeral services will be conducted Monday, Nov. 10, 2025, at 1 p.m., by Pastor Mike Shuler at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, IN. Interment will follow in the Grandview Memorial Gardens, 9306 North US 421 in Madison, IN.

Friends may visit Sunday, Nov. 9, 2025, from 4 - 6 p.m., and Monday, Nov. 10, 2025, from 12 p.m., until the time of service at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, IN.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart or the American Lung Association. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, and Hanover. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials, can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

FUNERALS

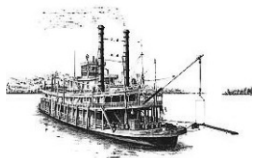
Ronald Lee Graves, 88, of Madison, Indiana, died Monday, Oct. 13, 2025, in Madison. He was a veteran of the U.S Air Force and the Army National Guard. Funeral services will take place at a later date. Arrangements by Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre in Madison, www.morgan-nay.com.

Mary Carolyn McClanahan, 83, of La Grange, KY, and formerly of Bedford, KY, died Friday, Oct. 31, 2025, at Baptist Hospital in La Grange. Funeral service was Wednesday, Nov. 5, at Ransdell Funeral Home in Bedford, with interment in the Valley of Rest

Cemetery, La Grange, www.ransdellfuneral.com.

Jean Ann Picard, 71, of Kent, IN died Saturday, Oct. 4, 2025, at her home. Cremation was chosen with interment in Kent Cemetery in Kent. Arrangements by Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison and Hanover, IN, www.morgan-nay.com.

Clifford Roberts Sr., 84, died Saturday, Nov. 1, 2025, in Sparta, KY. Graveside service was Thursday, Nov. 6, at Richwood Cemetery in Walton, KY. Arrangements by Tandy-Eckler-Riley Funeral Home in Carrollton, KY, www.tandyecklerrileyfuneralhome.com.



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Digital only: \$4 per month
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MCS votes to request rejoining career center

BY BOB DEMAREE

Board members for Madison Consolidated Schools voted unanimously Wednesday to request rejoining the Southeastern Career Center in Versailles.

Madison school board made the decision to withdraw from the career center in July of 2019 and has not participated since the fall of 2020.

By rejoining the career center, MCS will be able to provide students with 14 additional career certification options.

There are currently 11 participating school corporations that make up the Southeastern Career Center: Batesville, Jac-Cen-Del, Jennings County, Lawrenceburg, Milan, Rising Sun, South Dearborn, South Ripley, Southwestern, Sunman-Dearborn and Switzerland County. For MCS to again become a member of the career center, all participating schools must unanimously pass resolutions of acceptance.

“We have been discussing this for quite awhile now. We probably shouldn’t have ever gotten out, but we did, and I’m glad that we’re getting back in so we can provide more opportunities for our students,” said board member Michael Scott.

MCS Superintendent Dr. Teresa Brown is hopeful MCS will be notified in the next couple of months on its request to rejoin the center.

In other business, the board:

- Agreed to deed 0.066 acres of land on property at the former Dupont Elementary School building to Lancaster Township. Marlene Orrill, who is one of the organizers working to revitalize the school, felt the small tract of land likely was overlooked when MCS transferred the school building and gymnasium to Lancaster Township in 2014.

- Approved a letter of engagement with Policy Analytics LLC for \$20,000 to be paid from bond proceeds. Policy Analytics will assist the school corporation with Senate Bill 1, and cash flow and parcel level analysis.

- Heard the first reading of revised Madison Consolidated School policies including one on elections and eligibility to serve. The policy was revised due to House Enrolled Act 287 that allows candidates to declare political party affiliation, run as an independent or not disclose political party affiliation. It also changes the minimum age of a candidate from 21 to 18.

- Approved purchase from Midwest Transit Equipment for a 78-passenger

bus with airbrakes at a cost of \$182,344, which includes a \$2,196 discount for early purchase. Brown had said during last week’s work session that a bus had been ordered by another school corporation that had backed out on the deal. That vehicle was offered to MCS, which was planning to buy a new bus a year from now, and will now take delivery of the bus in January. The bus purchase will be paid from bonds.

- Approved an annual agreement for 12 months beginning Nov. 1 with ParentSquare for continuation of the communication platform for a renewal amount of \$15,858.96, which is a slight increase due to the school corporation’s increased enrollment. “I’ve heard nothing but good things about how it’s improved communication,” Brown said at last week’s work session.

- Approved adding ParentSquare’s Attendance Plus platform that aligns with the school corporation’s Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) methods. The prorated agreement begins in January and ends Oct. 31, 2026, at a cost of \$7,070.

The program manages and tracks attendance and intervention strategies. “It is a proactive approach that will help streamline systems throughout

each building” in managing attendance, said MCS Communications Coordinator Ashley Schutte at last week’s work session.

- Approved an agreement between Wilson Education Center, an education service provider offering procurement services to educational institutions, and MCS that provides for cost savings to the school corporation.

- Approved \$3,176.21 for the purchase of Jobready 360 software designed to streamline and enhance essential career readiness initiative across the MCS district, providing a centralized system that will track work-based learning hours and career and technical education programs.

- Approved purchase of 35 Google certified interactive panels to replace 35 Promethean boards that are nearing end of life. The purchase for \$76,347.25 from Riverside Technologies Inc. includes new boards as well as disposal of the older boards. The board also approved purchasing 115 Chromebooks to replace end of life computers that are connected to some newer Promethean boards. The total cost of the chromebooks purchased from Electronic Strategies Inc. was \$64,311.45. All of the money will come

from the 2025 technology budget.

- Approved a 5-year Unifirst Corporation uniform contract for maintenance/grounds employees and welding/diesel teachers for \$22,633.20 — a savings of \$11,675.45 compared to 2024 uniform expenses.

- Accepted the resignation of Devin Brierly as Madison varsity softball coach, and several retirements for the end of the school year including: Marlene Pietrykowski as graphics teacher and Thomas Ferry as science teacher at Madison Consolidated High School, and Debbie Bennett as sixth grade teacher and Julie Dwyer as seventh grade teacher at Madison Junior High School. Also, Karen Begeman is retiring as technology coordinator effective Dec. 31, and Laurie Hatton resigned as first grade teacher at Rykers’ Ridge Elementary School effective Oct. 14.

- Heard a presentation about Lydia Middleton Elementary School, led by Principal Trent Whaley, third grade teacher Katie Burress and literacy coach Missy Perry. “I can’t speak enough to what happens in those three floors every day,” Whaley said of the historic elementary building that is now 102 years old. “There are great things happening.”



Bob Demaree

Helen Mumphrey (left) plays piano music as Larry Ricci (center) talks with Jan Vetrhus (right).

UNMASKED OPENS

Seventy-seven people signed in for Tuesday’s reception of the exhibit “Unmasked: The Antilynching Exhibits of 1935 and Methods of Public Community Remembrance in Indiana.”

Guided tours will be available daily from 1-5 p.m. through Friday, Nov. 14, at the Jefferson County History and Art Center.



Bob Demaree

Alex Lichtenstein, chair of the Department of American Studies, at Indiana University talks about the exhibit, “Unmasked: The Antilynching Exhibits of 1935 and Methods of Public Community Remembrance in Indiana” during Tuesday’s opening reception at the Jefferson County History and Art Center. Guided tours will be daily from 1-5 p.m. through Nov. 14. The exhibit is an art installation reimagining two historic exhibits of anti-lynching art held in 1935.



Bob Demaree

Pianist/singer Helen Mumphrey, of Carrollton, Kentucky, performed Billie Holiday’s “Strange Fruit” during Tuesday’s reception for the exhibit, “Unmasked: The Antilynching Exhibits of 1935 and Methods of Public Community Remembrance in Indiana.” The song originated as a protest poem against lynchings that was inspired by a photograph of the 1930 lynching of two 19-year-old Black men — Thomas Shipp and Abram Smith — in Marion, Indiana.

BEAT

FROM PAGE A1

made is putting some of the more popular bands on at two different times at different venues. People would often lament that with so much going on all at once, they couldn’t squeeze in all their favorites. With this new change, you’ll have two chances to catch Maria Carrelli or Laid Back Country Picker.

“I’d be remiss if I didn’t mention all the people who helped make this event happen. My friend Dan Williams, who I met through the old Whispering Beard festival in Friendship. Kevin and Lisa Watkins, and their daughter Jenna who did some of our T-shirt designs. Alex Helton, Jim Bartlett, and Melinda Acree ... plus all the day-of volunteers who staff our gates and venues.

“The emotional response we get from people who

attend and love our event is probably the most gratifying thing of all. I’ve worked on a lot of festivals in Madison, going all the way back to the RiverRoots days, and there’s something about our format and location that really strikes a nerve. People actually get a bit giddy sometimes, because there is so much packed into such a short and intense window. Our motto is ‘Best Day Ever!’ and it’s a promise we strive to keep.”

If you’d like to experience MadHop for yourself, tickets are available at MadTix-Events.com. You can also purchase merchandise on MadTix this year, and pick it up the day of the show.

HOT TIP OF THE WEEK

The big news in Madison this weekend is the MadHop Music Festival, of course. If you are downtown Friday night or all day Saturday, it is literally impossible to avoid. More than a thousand wild-eyed music fans will be rushing (hopping?!) around the

heart of Madison trying to see as many of the 35 bands as possible in basically an 8-hour window. If that sounds crazy, you’re right it is ... in a good way. One special live music opportunity that jumped out from the calendar this week was at The Drake on Thursday. The BG Johnson Big Damn Band played The Drake while rehearsing on stage for their gig Saturday at MadHop. The other show that might be interesting is the New Orleans-based band Big Al and the Heavyweights playing at The Central. Pop in and check it out! Charlie Rohlfing is a retired advertising man and partner in The Red Bicycle Hall music venue. Look for his distinctive fedora bobbing above the crowd anywhere local live music is happening.

MUSIC EVENTS SCHEDULE Friday, Nov. 7

1st Street Saloon – Eric Hamblen Band
Riverboat Inn – Joe & Deano (6-9 p.m.)

Vintage Lanes – Live Jazz Music (7-9 p.m.)
Mad Paddle Brewstillery – Dylan West Band (8 p.m.)
Central Hotel – Karaoke (9 p.m.-1 a.m.)
TailGators – DJ Scratchy Karaoke (9 p.m.-1 a.m.)
TikiLIVE! – L&L Karaoke (9 p.m.)
MadHop – Music in 3 locations downtown
Rivertown Grill – River Valley Sons (9 p.m.-1 a.m.)
Saturday, Nov. 8
Mad Paddle Brewstillery – JDC Band (8 p.m.)
TailGators – Ragtop Deluxe (9 p.m.-1 a.m.)
TikiLIVE! – L&L Karaoke (9 p.m.)
TimelessLIVE! – Smokin Jokers (8 p.m.)
MadHop – Music in 8 locations downtown
1st Street Saloon – DJ Nate
Central Hotel – Big Al & The Heavyweights (9 p.m.-1 a.m.)
Rivertown Grill – Vaguely Familiar (9 p.m.-1 a.m.)
Sunday, Nov. 9
Rivertown Grill – Joe & Deano (7-10 p.m.)

MCS adopts pay hikes for teachers, staff

BY BOB DEMAREE

Pay raises were approved for teachers and other Madison Consolidated Schools (MCS) employees at Wednesday’s meeting of the board of trustees.

The collective bargaining agreement with the Madison Teachers Association provides a salary schedule with an across-the-board increase of \$1,500 for the 2025-26 school year.

Classified salary, administrators and certified salary employees were all approved for a 3.9% salary increase and all classified hourly employees will receive a 4.5% average increase — a 2% to 9% range — resulting from increase in the scales by 75¢. The salary increases are consistent with the increases being provided to teachers in the bargaining unit, effective July 1, 2025.

A one-time loyalty retention stipend of \$1,200 will be given to all employee groups who were employed by the school corporation on Jan. 1, 2025 and are still employed by the corporation on Nov. 15, 2025.

Increases were also approved for substitute teachers, effective Nov. 17. For high school graduates, the daily rate increases from \$97.50 to \$105. For those with an associates degree, the daily rate increases from \$105 to \$120. For those with a bachelor’s degree, the daily rate increases from \$120 to \$150.

Board member Michael Scott said since Dr. Teresa Brown became MCS superintendent in July 2022, “the teachers have been rewarded with a pay increase, stipend or both.” This year pay increases seemed unlikely with the passage of Senate Bill 1 by the Indiana General Assembly that is expected to decrease funding school corporations receive from property taxes.

Scott said he was at Opal Sherman Auditorium on the first day of school when Brown “flatly said, ‘I just don’t see where we’re going to be able to give anything’, and yet you saw tonight what we were able to do. That’s truly amazing,” Scott said. “What I like about it is that it’s really easy to say that we appreciate our staff and our leaders, but just words don’t help pay bills and take kids out to eat. Money does. Thank you Dr. Brown and the leadership team for coming up with a way to bless the good people we have employed in the Madison school system.”

Board President John Wallace also commended Brown and her staff for their efforts to cut back in other areas to provide funds for the pay increases, along with an increase this year of 70 students throughout the school corporation that will bring in more dollars. “We appreciate the teachers and our staff, and all the hard work they do, and we want to do the best we can for them.”

Judge in water lawsuit rules in favor of Madison

BY BOB DEMAREE

A lawsuit over who provides water service to the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office and Criminal Justice Center was decided last week in favor of the city of Madison.

The judgment, issued by Sarah Evans Barker, Judge of the United States District Court, Southern District of Indiana, ruled in favor of the city in providing water service to the jail that began housing inmates in January of last year.

“The primary argument that was being litigated was whether or not the city of Madison acted lawfully in providing water to the new jail, and the court ruled we did,” said Mayor Bob Courtney.

The city contended Dupont Water Company lacked adequate infrastructure to service the jail to provide adequate water service and fire protection.

The suit, filed by Dupont Water Company March 17, 2023, contended that Madison was infringing on its territory by providing water and fire suppression services to the new 300-bed, \$45 million jail located at 1150 JA Berry Lane.

The judgment did rule in Dupont’s favor on providing water service to nearby River City Printing.

In addition to the city and Dupont Water Company, the lawsuit had included Jefferson County as a defendant for purchasing water from Madison.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

DENNIS THE MENACE

ARCTIC CIRCLE

By Bil Keane

11-7

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“He’s not here, but I’m the BOY of the house.”

11-7

©2025 Dennis the Menace, Inc. Dist. by King Features Synd.

“I DIDN’T DO WHAT I WAS SUPPOSED TO DO AND DID WHAT I WASN’T SUPPOSED TO DO!”

I WAS FIRED FROM MY JOB BECAUSE OF THE HEAT PUMP.

WHY?

OVERLONG COFFEE BREAKS.

EARLIER...

11-7

©2025 Arctic Circle, Inc. Dist. by King Features Synd.

BIZARRO

CARTOONISTS' FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What’s your real job?

Did A.I. draw this?

You know what’d be funnier?

Waymo’s PRO. 11-7-25

BIZARRO.COM

11-7

©2025 Bizarro, Inc. Dist. by King Features Synd.

BEETLE BAILEY

I WANT TO APOLOGIZE IN ADVANCE IF WE LET ANY CURSE WORDS SLIP OUT, CHAPLAIN

OH, I’VE HEARD IT ALL BEFORE

PRO SHOP

GREG TACKET WACKER

11-7

©2025 Beetle Bailey, Inc. Dist. by King Features Synd.

RHYMES WITH ORANGE

THE TALK

Why did the chicken cross-- Ssh. Save it!

DEEP INSIDE YOU ARE PREPARED FOR FATHERHOOD. HAVE YOU LISTENED TO YOUR OWN DAD JOKES?

11-7

©2025 Rhymes with Orange, Inc. Dist. by King Features Synd.

BLONDIE

DOCTOR, LET’S SCRUTINIZE THESE FAST-FOOD INGREDIENTS UNDER A MICROSCOPE!

YIKES!

YUCKY!

SOMETIMES I FEEL BETTER NOT KNOWING THE INGREDIENTS

I HEAR YA, BRO!

GIVE ME ANOTHER ‘IGNORANCE IS BLISS’ SPECIAL!!

ROGER THAT!!

11-7

©2025 Blondie, Inc. Dist. by King Features Synd.

CURTIS

I KNOW YOU WORK AT THE DMV, BUT WHAT DO YOU DO FOR WORK AT THE DMV?

A MOTOR VEHICLE EXAMINER - DRIVER’S TESTS - I ASSESS A PERSON’S ABILITY TO SAFELY DRIVE A CAR

BEER! BEER! GRASSHOPPER!

SOMEBODY ELSE TESTED THAT ONE

11-7

©2025 Curtis, Inc. Dist. by King Features Synd.

HI & LOIS

DO YOU HAVE AN EXTRA RAKE?

UH... YEAH.

I LOVE THIS TIME OF YEAR!

IF CHIP FALLS FOR HER... HA HA HE’LL TURN OVER A NEW LEAF.

11-7

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PARDON MY PLANET

LEMONADE

MADE FRESH From Things found in the KITCHEN CABINET

MADE FRESH From Things found in the MEDICINE CABINET

YOU HAVE TO BE AN ADULT IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE.

11-7

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ZITS

WE CAN TALK ABOUT ANYTHING, RIGHT, JEREMY?

RIGHT.

JUST NOT MY GRADES, FRIENDS, MUSIC, JOBS, CLOTHES, HAIR, FUTURE OR HYGIENE.

WHAT ABOUT THE WEATHER?

SORRY, THAT’S OFF THE TABLE, TOO.

11-7

©2025 Zits, Inc. Dist. by King Features Synd.

DUMPLINGS

MAC, I WON’T BE ABLE TO GET ICE CREAM FOR FIVE MONTHS!!

HOW AM I GOING TO MAKE IT?

UMM... I THINK YOU JUST NEED SOME CREAM AND SUGAR.

11/7

AND AN ICE CREAM MACHINE!

11-7

©2025 Dumplings, Inc. Dist. by King Features Synd.

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

HOW MUCH IMPORTANCE DO YOU PLACE ON A WOMAN’S LOOKS?

A LOT!

ANY TIME A WOMAN LOOKS MY WAY IS SPECIAL!

11-7

©2025 Hagar the Horrible, Inc. Dist. by King Features Synd.

SIX CHIX

I WISH THERE WERE SOME KIND OF MAGIC ELIXIR THAT HELPED MY HEADACHES AND CLEARED MY SKIN AND GAVE ME ENERGY AND GENERALLY JUST IMPROVED MY LIFE

YOU MEAN LIKE WATER? MAYBE YOU SHOULD DRINK MORE WATER

NO

11-7

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BARNEY GOOGLE AND SNUFFY SMITH

BREAKIN’ NEWS !!

ELMER THOMAS BROKE HIS LAIG... LUREN JENKS BROKE A PROMISE... CLARENCE BARLOW WENT BROKE GOIN’ FER BROKE, AN’ DOC PRITCHART’S PARKIN’ BRAKE BROKE !!

11-7

©2025 Barney Google and Snuffy Smith, Inc. Dist. by King Features Synd.

SALLY FORTH

MOM! PAT! DEB! YOU’RE HERE!

I MEAN, LIKE, WEEKS EARLY!

WE GOT YOU SOME BREAD ROLLS.

WE DON’T KNOW HOW MANY HANDS TOUCHED THOSE, BECAUSE WE HAD TO SWIPE THEM FROM ANOTHER TABLE.

DON’T GET ME STARTED ON OUR SERVER.

11-7

©2025 Sally Forth, Inc. Dist. by King Features Synd.

DUSTIN

HOW’S THE NEW BOYFRIEND?

OH, HE’S FINE... HE’S REALLY NICE.

HE DOES HAVE SORT OF AN ANNOYING LITTLE LAUGH, BUT HONESTLY, IT’S NOT THAT NOTICEABLE.

JUST WAIT.

11-7

©2025 Dustin, Inc. Dist. by King Features Synd.

MUTTS

SHELTER STORIES

I’M GOING TO BE A GREAT DOG. YOU’LL JUST NEED A LITTLE PATIENCE.

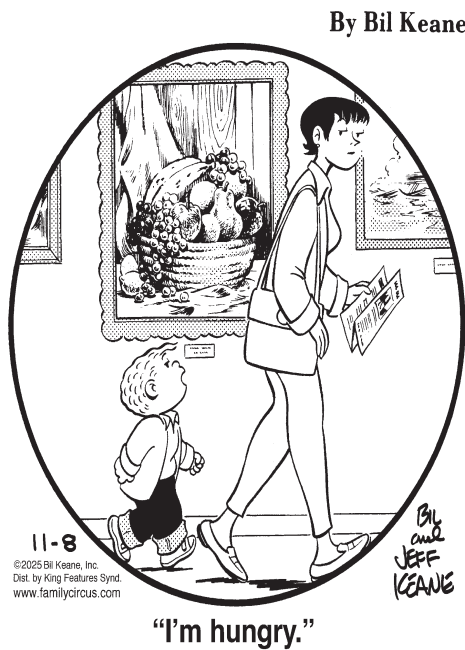
"RILEY"

I’LL WAIT.

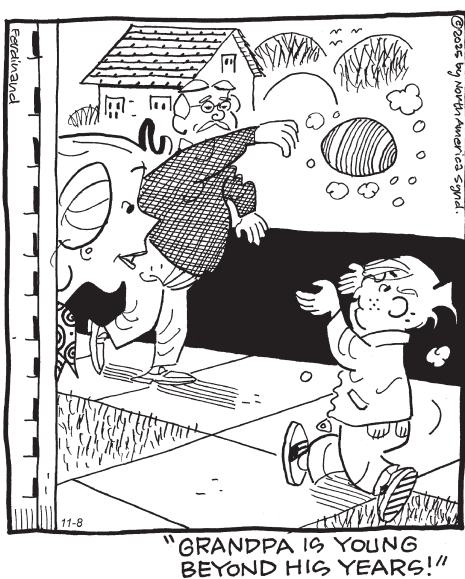
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS



DENNIS THE MENACE



ARCTIC CIRCLE



BIZARRO



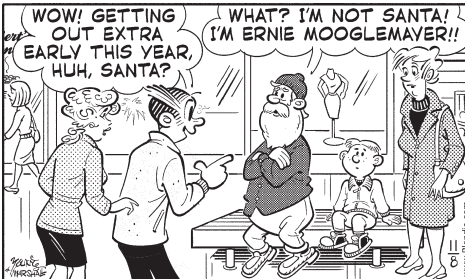
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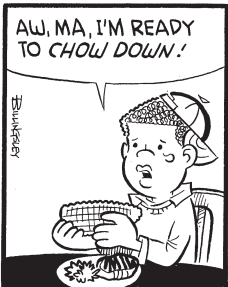
RHYMES WITH ORANGE



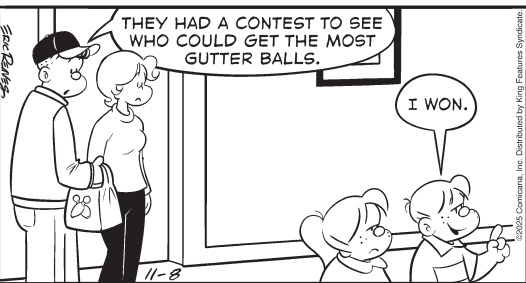
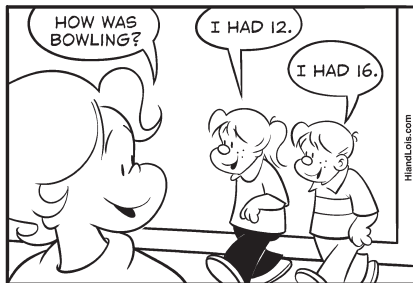
BLONDIE



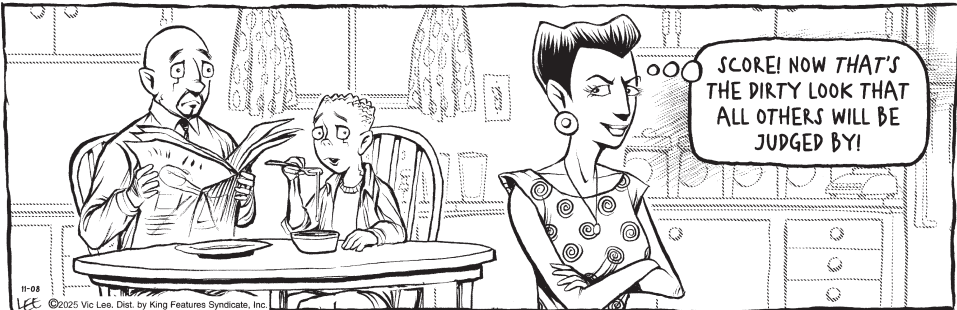
CURTIS



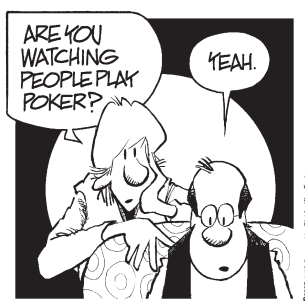
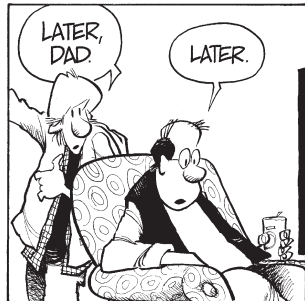
HI & LOIS



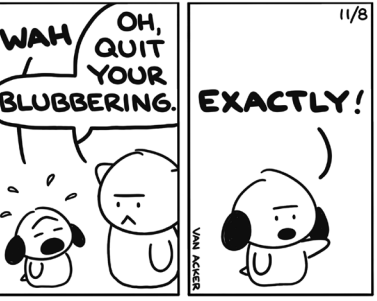
PARDON MY PLANET



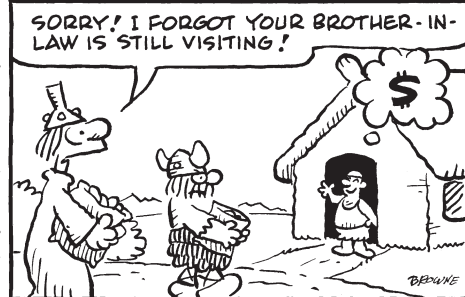
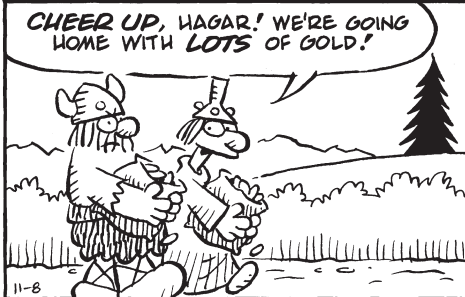
ZITS



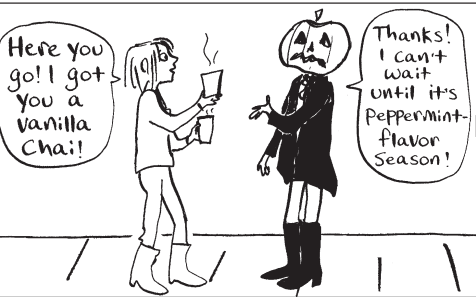
DUMPLINGS



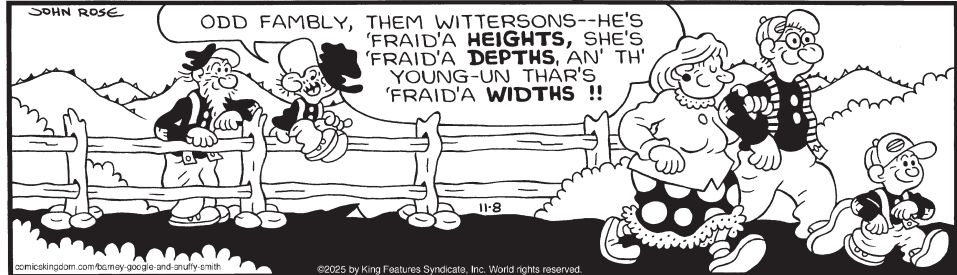
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



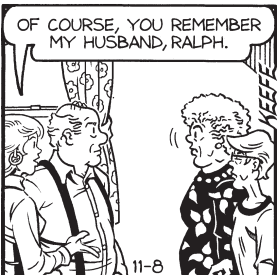
SIX CHIX



BARNEY GOOGLE AND SNUFFY SMITH



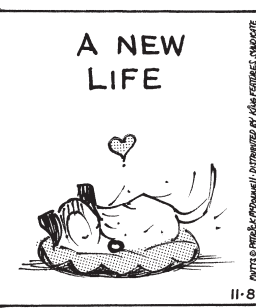
SALLY FORTH



DUSTIN



MUTTS



Council begins process of changing 911, animal shelter boards

BY MARK CAMPBELL

Madison City Council heard the first readings of three resolutions related to end of year business and two ordinances establishing how Madison, Hanover and Jefferson County will share operation of emergency communications and the local animal shelter in a brief meeting Tuesday.

The resolution and ordinances, most previously mentioned at prior meetings, were on the agenda as part of the end of year housekeeping to close out 2025 and lay the foundation for 2026 in a meeting that adjourned in less than 30 minutes.

The two ordinances — the first an interlocal agreement related to communication (911) services and the second a similar arrangement related to the Jefferson

County Animal Shelter — will establish how those services will be funded and the makeup of the boards that will oversee their operation.

The communication ordinance specifies that the county’s 911 board will be expanded from five members to seven to provide more representation to stakeholders.

The new board will include four elected officials and four members of the law enforcement community — the Jefferson County Sheriff representing both groups.

In addition to the sheriff, the elected board members will include a county commissioner, mayor of Madison and a town board member from Hanover. The representatives from law enforcement will include the county sheriff, the police chiefs of Madison and Hanover, and a deputy sheriff appointed by the

county sheriff.

At one point in the discussion Councilman Joshua Schafer question why a representative of the local fire services was not included in the board. According the Mayor Bob Courtney, state law dictates how and which local agencies are represented on 911 boards and fire service is not included at this time.

The ordinance on the animal shelter will also bring some change to that board, which was dissolved some time ago. The board, previously six members, will be reduced to four members with one each from the two cities and another from the county along with a local veterinarian serving as advisor.

The resolutions include one that will allow the police department to reallocate funds that would have paid for a part-time officer who

has since retired, to be used for equipment and supplies and another that creates a fund that allows the direct deposit of grants from Bethany Legacy Foundation in a fund that more easily allows disbursement. The third is an interlocal agreement with Jefferson County related to public safety dollars the city contributes toward the jail and funds the county allocates for historic preservation and economic development in the city.

In other business, the council:

- Approved the reappointment of Jeff Matheney to another term on the city’s Tree Board ending Dec. 31, 2027.
- Fielded a complaint by Donald Schafer, 320 East Second Street, concerning his recent interaction with Code Enforcement Office Dewey O’Neal related to a code violation at that property.

Schafer said a citation giving him five days to correct a violation did not arrive by mail until six days after it was issued and that he has now had a lien placed on his property after the city assigned a crew to correct the problem.

“Let’s work together with the building inspector on this matter,” Courtney told Schafer. “I know Dewey was following a process but that process had some flaws in it because we don’t control the pace of the mail.

“We are working to accelerate the notification period so that you’re not caught off guard. There’s a timing difference here. Sometimes we’re showing up to do the work and the letter hasn’t arrived yet,” Courtney added. “So we are working on some process improvements ... we’ll work with the building inspector to resolve this.”

12 dead after engine fell off UPS plane that crashed and exploded in Kentucky

BY BRUCE SCHREINER, HALLIE GOLDEN AND DYLAN LOVAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A UPS cargo plane’s left wing caught fire and an engine fell off just before it crashed and exploded after takeoff in Kentucky, a federal official said Wednesday, offering the first investigative details about a disaster that killed at least 12 people, including a child.

Finding survivors seemed unlikely as first responders searched the charred area of the crash at UPS Worldport, the company’s global aviation

hub in Louisville, Gov. Andy Beshear said. The inferno consumed the enormous aircraft and spread to nearby businesses.

After being cleared for takeoff, a large fire developed in the left wing, said Todd Inman, a member of the National Transportation Safety Board, which is leading the investigation. The NTSB will now try to determine what caused the fire and why the engine fell off. It will likely take investigators more than a year to answer those questions.

The plane gained enough altitude to clear the fence at

the end of the runway before crashing just outside Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport, Inman told reporters.

Airport security video “shows the left engine detaching from the wing during the takeoff roll,” he said.

The cockpit voice recorder and data recorder were recovered, and the engine was discovered on the airfield, Inman said.

“There are a lot of different parts of this airplane in a lot of different places,” he said, describing a debris field that stretched for half a mile.

A CHAIN REACTION

The plane with three people aboard crashed about 5:15 p.m. Tuesday as it was departing for Honolulu from UPS Worldport at the Louisville airport.

The crash had a devastating ripple effect, striking and causing smaller explosions at Kentucky Petroleum Recycling and hitting an auto salvage yard, Grade A Auto Parts. Beshear said the child who died was with a parent at the parts business.

Beshear earlier said it was a “blessing” that the plane did not hit a nearby Ford Motor factory or the convention center.

VETS

FROM PAGE A1

veterans at 1:30 p.m. On Friday, Nov. 14, at 9 a.m., there will be assembly with veterans at Richard B. Cartmell Elementary School.

TRIMBLE COUNTY

Trimble County will hold a special program on Veterans Day, Tuesday, Nov. 11, for students of all grades and schools. The event will be hosted at Trimble County High School with veterans for donuts at 9 a.m. followed by a program in the gymnasium at 9:30 a.m. Students from the junior/senior high school will attend and students from Bedford and Milton elementaries will be bussed in for the event.

SWITZERLAND COUNTY

Switzerland County School Corporation will host three events. On Monday, Nov. 10, Jefferson-Craig Elementary School in Vevay will have a veterans breakfast at 8:15 a.m. with a program at 9 a.m. in the elementary gymnasium. On Tuesday, Nov.

11, Switzerland County Elementary School in East Enterprise will have a veterans breakfast at 8:15 a.m. with a program at 9 a.m. That same day Switzerland County High School will host veterans with a reception at 1 p.m. and a program at 1:30 p.m.

American Legion Auxiliary of Post No. 185 in Vevay will have a meal for Legion members Tuesday, Nov. 11, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Cost for non-members is \$10 per plate.

STATE OF INDIANA

All veterans and active-duty military personnel, and everyone in their vehicle, will be admitted free to Indiana Department of Natural Resources-managed state parks, reservoir properties, state forest recreation areas, and off-road state recreation areas on Veterans Day, Tuesday, Nov. 11. This includes admission to Clifty Falls State Park in Madison and the Falls of the Ohio State Park’s Interpretive Center in Clarksville. Veterans and military personnel should simply let the gate attendant at the property they visit know that they are either a veteran or serving on and active duty.

MAIN

FROM PAGE A1

there is a push to “get our construction completed and our sidewalks open” for Madison Main Street’s Holiday Open House in downtown Madison Nov. 14-15.

This year’s Main Street work began in August with a focus on Mill Street to Broadway Street, before a decision was made last month that milling and paving would be extended east to St. Micheals Avenue. In addition, a mid-block pedestrian crossing is being constructed from the Main Street Comfort Station to the parking lot directly on the north side of Main Street.

BPWS approved three payments to the contractor, All-Star Paving, of Seymour — \$503,335.44 for the work from Mill Street to Broadway Street, \$97,143.26 for milling resurfacing and restriping from Broadway Street to Mulberry Street, and \$8,952.75 for the mid-block crossing that’s been done so far.

The board also approved a change order totaling \$42,213.40 for reconstruction of drainage structures. “Before we resurfaced, we went ahead and rebuilt all the drainage structures,” said Hale.

Two downtown Madison residents — Jan Vetrhus and Sue Patterson — spoke up about a couple of drainage problem areas on Main Street where the milling and paving

is being done.

Vetrhus said water pools in the handicap parking space in front of the Madison Senior Center at 208 West Main Street, where the gutters are tall.

“As part of this project, we’re not changing the profile of the road, so we are not able to change the curb height or the overall height of the road itself,” said Hale, who noted there is an inlet that often becomes plugged at that location and because it is often covered by parked vehicles it tends to get missed during street and drain cleaning. “We will be putting an emphasis” on ensuring that it does get cleaning. He said the inlet has been tested by flooding it with water which successfully verified that it is working correctly when clean.

Patterson said there is a similar problem at 406 East Main Street in front of the Spencer J. Schnaitter Jefferson County Democrat Headquarters. “There’s a huge divert there where road dust collects,” she said, noting there is a handicap parking space there and people getting out of their vehicle must step through the water. “I don’t want someone trying to get out of a car, needing help anyway, and have them fall,” Patterson said.

While the Senior Center is on a portion of Main Street that is under city control, Hale noted the Democrat Headquarters is on a portion of Main State controlled by Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) so the state is

responsible for any infrastructure work needed there.

Milling, paving and striping is underway on the portion of the state highway from Jefferson Street to St. Michaels Avenue for which the city received INDOT permission to do that work.

“The reason we’re doing the resurfacing now is because it is consistent with a traffic calming plan that we had talked about,” said Courtney, noting INDOT had indicated it would have been 10 years before the state did that work.

Courtney said the city opted to fund addressing the traffic calming now with INDOT coming back “at some point and time to do more infrastructure for drainage, curbs and gutters.”

Patterson agreed on the importance of traffic calming, especially on that part of Main Street. “There are times when you are taking your life in your hands to get out of your car,” she noted.

“I do not doubt that all. That’s why this traffic calming” is so important, said the mayor. “The main thing with the traffic calming is we’re eliminating the acceleration lane” that is being utilized between Walnut Street and St. Michaels Avenue. Traffic will be immediately shifted into one lane as traffic enters Jefferson Street in front of the Jefferson County Courthouse.

“It is an unsafe corridor, and that’s why we’re doing the traffic calming to force people to stage for the bridge way sooner than

CLOSINGS

Due to Veterans Day, all city of Madison facilities, including the water office, transfer station and Brown Gym, will be closed Tuesday, Nov. 11. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday trash and recycle pickup will be delayed by one day.

Hanover Town Hall will be closed Tuesday, Nov. 11, in observance of Veterans Day.

All Jefferson County government offices will also be closed Tuesday, Nov. 11.

In Carroll County, all Carroll County government and city of Carrollton government offices will be closed Tuesday, Nov. 11, due to Veterans day.

In Trimble County, government offices in the county and Milton will be closed Tuesday but the city of Bedford will remain open.

In Switzerland County, town of Vevay and town of Patriot offices will be closed, along with Switzerland County government.

There will be no mail delivery and all U.S. Post Offices will be closed Tuesday, Nov. 11.

All Bureau of Motor Vehicles license branches in Indiana will be closed Tuesday, Nov. 11.

speeding up and crossing over,” Courtney added.

Deputy Mayor Tony Steinhardt III said work has begun on installation of decorative street lighting west of Cragmont Street. Currently, the lighting ends at Cragmont Street, but once installed will extend west to the bridge at Crooked Creek. Steinhardt anticipates installation will be completed by early December, allowing the city to place Christmas decorations on that part of downtown Madison for a first time.

The project is being funded through the city’s Redevelopment Commission in an agreement with Duke Energy.

City to seek \$1M CCMG grant for streets in 2026

BY BOB DEMAREE

An application for Community Crossing Matching Grant funding has been submitted by Madison to the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) with hopes of funding \$1 million in road improvements in 2026.

Mayor Bob Courtney said at Monday’s Board of Public Works and Safety meeting that “this will be our first test to see how INDOT truly allocates the awards because of the changes in the funding bill with Senate Bill 1” that included requirements for the city to adopt a wheel tax.

Chris Hale, the city’s Director of Streets, Facilities and Solid Waste, said city roads on the application include Cragmont Street from Clifty Drive to Mouser Street, Crozier Avenue from State Road 7 to Cassidy Lane, Third Street from Cragmont Street to Broadway Street, and Broadway Street from Third Street to Main Street on both north and south lanes.

BPWS board member Karl Eaglin asked whether there was consideration of road work on Green Road.

“There was a lot of discussion about Green Road,” said Courtney. “We did price it and it took us way over \$1 million” in which \$1 million was budgeted. “We had Green Road in there as factor, and we costed it out, and it was going to cost too much because the other work that’s needed there besides the resurfacing.”

He said city can consider Green Road for CCMG funding in 2027.

Eaglin said that while work was being done recently on Clifty Drive many more people opted to travel Green Road, which accelerated deterioration of the road. Also, due to high pedestrian traffic, he said Green Road has a need for sidewalks from Michigan Road to Cragmont Street. “Green Road needs to be pushed up in the priorities” because of the condition of the road.

“We’re continuing to look at” Green Road, said Hale. “We did do the costing

estimates for CCMG, and it was a rather large number, so we’ll have to continue to work to find where we can find funds for those kind of projects.”

In other business the BPWS:

- Approved payment of \$25,000 PACE dilapidated structures grants for each of two addresses owned by Rebecca Brown — 302 West Street and 304 West Street. “It’s amazing the transformation from what it was to what it is to what it will be,” said Courtney.

The building in more recent years been the Cinnamon Tea Room but had deteriorated substantially. “It’s so good to see that building” being rehabilitated, said BPWS board member David Carlow. “The alternative would have been a parking lot eventually.

Courtney agreed, “It was structurally very damaged.”

“I really appreciate the effort and the time and expense to refurbish that building. It’s tremendous,” said Carlow.

The board also approved payments of \$25,000 PACE dilapidated structure grants to Matt Binzer for 518 Jefferson Street and to Austin Ketcham for 1725 Allen Street. “I’m really grateful for everybody’s investment in these properties and in our neighborhoods,” said Courtney.

- Approved street closings for the city’s Christmas parade Saturday, Dec. 6, on Main Street between Jefferson and Mill streets, and the Christmas festival on Broadway Street between Main Street and Presbyterian Avenue. An \$1,850 contract was also approved for reindeer that will be both in the parade and at the festival and \$10,000 to Dynamic Displays for nine large balloons that will be in the parade. Sponsorships will pay the cost for renting the reindeer from Silly Safaris of Indianapolis, and the balloons from Dynamic Displays of Windsor, Ontario.
- With the city of Madison named custodian of funds donated for the Madison Community Concert Band, approval was given for the disbursement of \$919.99.

Kasper Insurance is thankful for all those who have trusted us for their insurance needs.

Happy Thanksgiving





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Sports

GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Ayler leads Madison’s historic season

BY DAVID CAMPBELL

Kyra Ayler has spent the past few seasons taking advantage of her teammates' generosity, using their passing to rack up scoring totals never before seen in school history. So the Madison star felt it was only right to give back during her senior season and the result was a record-breaking campaign for everybody involved.

The final stats for Ayler's senior season were staggering — 41 goals and 25 assists — as Madison won its second-straight sectional championship and a school-record 17 games. With those kinds of accomplishments, Ayler was the easy choice as the Madison Courier Girls Soccer Player of the Year for a second-straight season.

"They have helped me so much with my goals, and the only way I can repay them is helping them," Ayler said. "And I knew some of them wanted to get a lot of goals as well, so I just wanted to help out every way I could."

Ayler has been scoring goals since her first game as a freshman and, despite sitting out her sophomore year, she finished with a school-record 107 markers. But with all of those goals, she wasn't able to showcase much of her passing ability so her assist totals lagged.

But this year's Madison Cubs

were loaded on the offensive end and with teammates like Kenzie Smith, Kamea Phelps, Tessa Renfrow and Maggie Stivers also capable of putting the ball in the net, Ayler wanted to share the ball and pass around the love as often as possible. Renfrow finished with 24 goals, Smith had 23, Stivers 17 and Phelps ended the year with seven despite missing more than half the season with injury.

Renfrow and Stivers are freshmen and both have the ability to eclipse all of Ayler's school records. Ayler's delighted to have served as a mentor to the two blossoming stars.

"They were always asking me questions, and I was always very happy to help," Ayler said. "But I think they were pretty happy with the season."

Ayler's 25 assists currently ranks fifth in the state of Indiana and her 41 goals stands sixth. Her 107 total points are also currently fifth.

All of those goals have caught the attention of coaches around the state as well as those in the college ranks. She was named to the Indiana Soccer Coaches Association All-District 4 team and will play in a showcase in Fishers this weekend. If she plays well, she could earn all-state honors.

Ayler has not yet picked a

MADISON COURIER COURIERAREA GIRLS SOCCER TEAM 2025

Player/School	Ci. Pos.
Maria Ameca-Mendoza/Shawnee	So. F
Kyra Ayler*/Madison	Sr. MF
Brinley Couch/Carroll	Sr. MF
Dellah Gibson/Madison	Sr. D
Jane Jenner/Madison	So. GK
Justice Kuntz/Shawnee	So. F
Kylie Montgomery/Madison	Sr. D
Emma Parsons/Switzerland	Sr. F
Tessa Renfrow/Madison	Fr. F
Kenzie Smith/Madison	Jr. MF
Lauren Smith/Switzerland	Sr. F
Lyndsey Snider/Switzerland	Jr. GK
Emma South/Switzerland	Sr. F
Madison Spillman/Switzerland	So. D
Maggie Stivers/Madison	Fr. F

*-Player of the Year

Past Winners

2025 — Kyra Ayler, Madison
2024 — Kyra Ayler, Madison
2023 — Halle Archer, Switzerland
2022 — Halle Archer, Switzerland
2021 — Raylin Kappes, Switzerland
2020 — Halle Archer, Switzerland
2019 — Matty Anderson, Switzerland

college but has visits set up with several schools over the next few weeks, including three at the Division I level. She hopes to play soccer in college and wants to major in education.

"I just want to get into a good school for my studies and go play for a soccer team somewhere," Ayler said.

Despite all of her success, Ayler said she never truly expected her career to turn out the way it has. She has played soccer all of her life and just wanted to keep playing



Nina Campbell

Madison Consolidated High School senior Kyra Ayler is the Madison Courier Girls Soccer Player of the Year for a second-straight season.

SEE **AYLER/PAGE B2**

Ohio State gets top billing in playoff rankings followed by Indiana, Texas A&M

BY EDDIE PELLIS
AP NATIONAL WRITER

The closest thing resembling drama for the first big reveal of this season's College Football Playoff rankings hinged on which undefeated team would receive top billing.

Answer: The defending champions at Ohio State.

The Buckeyes took the top spot in the first set of 2025 rankings Tuesday night, followed by Indiana and Texas A&M.

In choosing the two Big Ten teams ahead of Texas A&M, the 12-person committee appeared to give less weight to A&M's tougher schedule and its 41-40 win over tenth-ranked Notre Dame and more to the way the Buckeyes and Hoosiers have mowed down opponents this year, with only two games between the two of them decided by less than 10 points.

"I think statistically when we looked at A&M defensively, they're just lower than both Ohio State and Indiana," committee chair Mack Rhoades said. "We had to make a hard decision, and you're trying to find separators, and that was a separator for us."

Another team with no losses, BYU of the Big 12, was ranked seventh.

Nos. 4, 5 and 6 went to Southeastern Conference teams with one loss each — Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi. All of the top six came from either the Big Ten or SEC, a dose of business as usual despite a season that has been anything but predictable.

This marked the first of six weekly rankings the committee will release this season, ending Dec. 7 when the final list will set the bracket for the second 12-team playoff in major college football history.

That tournament begins Dec. 19-20 with four games on the campus of seeds No. 5-8. The top four seeds play winners of those games over the New Year holiday and the title game is set for Jan. 19 at Hard Rock Stadium outside Miami.

Texas Tech was ranked eighth and Oregon came



Stephanie Scarbrough/AP Photo

Indiana quarterback Fernando Mendoza (15) reacts after running back Roman Hemby scored a touchdown during the second half of an NCAA college football game against Maryland, Saturday, Nov. 1, in College Park, Md.

in at No. 9. Rounding out the top 12 were Notre Dame — the only team in the Top 25 not from a power conference — then Texas and Oklahoma.

But if the bracket were set today, the Longhorns and Sooners would miss out, - bumped by No. 14 Virginia of the ACC and Memphis of the American. That's thanks to a rule that places the five best-ranked conference champions into the bracket even if they're not in the top 12.

Memphis wasn't among the committee's top 25 but was still the highest ranked leader in a Group of Five conference.

There is, of course, plenty of time for teams to make their cases, with four more weeks of the regular season, then a slate of conference title games set for the first weekend in December.

"If we go back to last year, Arizona State wasn't even in the rankings for our first two rankings," Rhoades said of the Sun Devils, who won the Big 12 and made the field. "Again, to everybody out there, this is the first ranking and still a lot of ball left to be played."

The final tally in the top 12: The SEC has six teams,

the Big Ten three, the Big 12 two, and the ACC none, with one independent.

Among those still holding out hope are teams such as 16th-ranked Vanderbilt and 17th-ranked Georgia Tech, each of whom spent time in the AP top 10 this season thanks to upsets that turned college football upside down in September and October.

THE FIRST-ROUND MATCHUPS BASED ON CFP RANKINGS

— No. 12 Memphis at No. 5 Georgia, winner vs. No. 4 Alabama. You can almost hear SEC commissioner Greg Sankey breaking his TV wondering how an unranked team is in here over one of his.

— No. 11 Virginia at No. 6 Ole Miss, winner vs. No. 3 Texas A&M. Virginia's only Top 25 meeting this season was against Florida State, which does not resemble a Top 25 team now.

— No. 10 Notre Dame at No. 7 BYU, winner vs. No. 2 Indiana. The Fighting Irish have to hope some of the teams immediately below them — like Texas and Oklahoma — do not put up impressive wins since

they close with Navy, Pitt, Syracuse and Stanford.

— No. 9 Oregon at No. 8 Texas Tech, winner vs. No. 1 Ohio State. A Booster Bowl pitting teams backed by billionaires Phil Knight (Ducks) and Cody Campbell (Red Raiders).

TWEAKS IN THIS YEAR'S BRACKET

The biggest change in the setup of this year's bracket was eliminating the first-round bye for the four best conference champions. It would mean that Virginia, instead of jumping from a No. 14 ranking to a No. 3 seed, would be seeded 11th with a road game against Mississippi.

Rhoades also spent time discussing Oregon, which is ranked sixth in the AP poll but ninth in the playoff rankings. The Ducks' best win this year was a 20-point victory over Northwestern, while its double-overtime win at Penn State early in the season has become less impressive as last year's semifinalist fell apart.

"When we looked at and evaluated Oregon, we really looked at the quality of the team and how they looked on film," Rhoades said.



File

Former Miss Madison driver Jimmy Shane, who retired from H1 Unlimited racing three years ago, has announced his return in 2026 to drive for BWR Racing. Shane is tied for fourth in career wins with 25 and has won six nationally high points championships and five APBA Gold Cups.

Villwock retires hours after Shane joins BWR

Will drive for BWR Racing in 2026

Cup titles, and 10 National High Point Championships — announced his retirement

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Dave Villwock, Unlimited hydroplane racing's career wins leader, has announced his retirement and former Miss Madison driver Jimmy Shane is returning to the sport after a three-year absence to drive for BWR Racing in 2026.

Villwock, the sport's all-time wins leader with 68 career victories — including 11 Gold

Thursday as driver of the U-27 Miss Apollo for BWR Racing.

His announcement came just hours after Shane said he is ready to return to the sport and will join BWR Racing in 2026. Shane, who has 25 career wins to his credit — including six national titles and five Gold Cup — had retired from the sport after the 2022 season to concentrate

SEE **VILLWOCK/PAGE B2**



Dave Villwock

LOCAL SPORTS CALENDAR

Friday, Nov. 7

BASKETBALL

Switzerland Co. girls at South Dearborn, 7:30 p.m.

Hanover women vs. Ozarks at Memphis, Tenn., 8:30 p.m.

FOOTBALL

Switzerland Co. at Brownstown, IHSAA Class 2A Sectional Championship, 7 p.m.

SWIMMING

Hanover at Franklin, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 8

BASKETBALL

Shawnee girls host Chesterton, noon

Hanover women at Rhodes, 2 p.m.

Hanover men hosts Wabash, 3 p.m.

Madison girls host Franklin Co., 7:30 p.m.

Southwestern girls at Brown Co., 7:30 p.m.

FOOTBALL

Hanover hosts Otterbein (Ohio), 1:30 p.m.

SOCCER

Hanover men at Transylvania, HCAC

Tournament Championship, 2 p.m.

Hanover women at Rose-Hulman, HCAC

Tournament Championship, 7 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL

Hanover hosts Anderson, 7 p.m.

WRESTLING

Madison girls at Speedway, 9 a.m.

Sunday, Nov. 9

No local events

Monday, Nov. 10

No local events

Tuesday, Nov. 11

BASKETBALL

Shawnee girls at Jac-Cen-Del, 6:30 p.m.

Hanover men hosts Spalding, 7 p.m.

Madison girls at Lawrenceburg, 7:30 p.m.

Southwestern girls host Charlestown, 7:30 p.m.

HANOVER ROUNDUP: Panthers upset top-seed MSJ in shootout

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Hanover College made all five of its attempts in the penalty-kick shootout to stun top-seeded Mount St. Joseph 1-1 (5-4 SO) in the semifinals of the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference women's soccer tournament Tuesday in Cincinnati.

Hanover, the No. 4 seed, went up 1-0 on a goal by Anna Black in the 63rd minute but Mount St. Joseph tied the game in the 72nd minute to force overtime.

After two scoreless OT

sessions, the game moved to a penalty kick shootout. Morgan Castiglione, Cam Horsley, Kaleigh Schirmer, Maddi Mosby and Izzy Phillips each hit their shots while Mount missed its final attempt to seal the Panthers' win.

Mount, winners of eight straight including 2-1 over Hanover in a regular season meeting on Oct. 8 in Madison, out-shot Hanover 21-10 on the day but just 9-5 on goal, and had nine corner kick chances to the Panthers' none. Hanover goalie Emma Patterson made eight saves to secure the win.

Hanover, now 8-6-5 on the season, heads to No. 2 seed Rose Hulman on Saturday for the HCAC championship game. Game time will be 7 p.m. Mount ends its season at 10-6-4 and 8-0-1 HCAC.

MEN'S SOCCER ADVANCES

Hanover men's soccer team advanced to the HCAC championship game with a 2-1 win over Rose-Hulman in the semifinals at home on Wednesday.

The second-seeded Panthers fell behind 1-0 less than a

minute into the match but tied the game in the 27th minute on a goal by Patricio Campos with an assist from Cole Hubert. Campos then provided the game-winner with a penalty kick in the 64th minute.

Hanover held a 9-4 advantage in shots, including 7-3 on goal. Goalie Rodrigo Gutierrez Olvera Gonzalez had two saves in goal.

Hanover, now 14-4-2 on the season, travels to top-seeded Transylvania (14-22, 90 HCAC) for the HCAC championship game on Saturday. The Pioneers edged the Panthers 2-

1 in their regular season meeting on Oct. 22 in Hanover.

VOLLEYBALL SWEEPS BEREА

Hanover volleyball traveled to Berea and came away with a 3-0 sweep, 25-22, 25-22, 25-12.

Kelsey Waggoner had eight kills and 14 digs for the Panthers, Abbey McCoy had eight kills and 10 digs, Elliot Mays had seven kills, Madison Schicker had 10 digs and Brooke Gervers and Megan Vogel each had 11 assists.

Hanover, now 16-10 overall

and 4-3 HCAC, closes the regular season at home against Anderson on Saturday and plays in the HCAC Tournament next Wednesday.

LOCAL LEAGUES		
MADISON CHURCH VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE		
RESULTS		
Monday, Nov. 3		
HALLELUJAH DIVISION		
Riverstone No. 2 d. Falls City	Falls City No. 3 d. Wirt Baptist	TOURNAMENT
No. 2, 25-19, 25-18.	No. 2, 25-18, 25-1.	24/7 Life No. 1 d. Hanover
Falls City No. 2 d. 24/7 Life	Mount Pleasant Baptist d.	United Methodist, 25-20, 19-
No. 2, 25-21, 25-19.	First Baptist, 25-17, 25-19.	25, 16-14.
Wirt Baptist No. 2 d. Rivers-	New Heart No. 2 d. New	Riverstone No. 1 d. Dupont
tone No. 2, 25-15, 19-25, 15-8.	Heart No. 1, 26-24, 14-25, 15-10.	Baptist, 25-23,15-25, 15-9.
	Mount Pleasant Baptist d.	Wirt Baptist No. 1 d. Rivers-
	New Heart No. 1, 25-10, 25-11.	tone No. 1, 25-14, 25-14.
	Falls City No. 1 d. First Baptist, 25-20, 25-8.	Dupont Baptist d. Hanover
		United Methodist, 25-21, 25-
		23.
	PRAISE DIVISION	

Pilot program allows some D-III athletes to keep competing

BY STEVE MEGARGEE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

De PERE, Wis. — Cora Anderson and Madison DeCleene spent their first two years at Division III St. Norbert College believing their academic pursuits would force them to end their athletic careers earlier than they wanted.

An NCAA pilot program gave them another chance to keep competing.

The program allows D-III athletes to continue playing at schools they no longer attend under certain conditions. Anderson and DeCleene remain on the track and field team for St. Norbert—where they spent their first two years—even though they now attend nearby Bellin College. The two schools are located about 10 miles apart outside Green Bay, Wisconsin.

“Now I’m able to achieve my full potential by pursuing both my academic goals and my athletic career as well,” said DeCleene, who also runs cross country for St. Norbert. “Before, it was thought that you could only choose one. Now I can do both.”

DeCleene and Anderson are taking part in an academic partnership that enabled them to spend two years at St. Norbert before heading to Bellin to study nursing. Bellin doesn’t have varsity sports, which made the two athletes

eligible for the pilot program; a formal academic agreement between the two schools is also required.

Jim Troha, chair of the NCAA Division III Presidents Council, said the program tries to address changes in higher education.

“It recognizes existing academic programs and provides flexibility to expand participation opportunities for our student-athletes,” Troha said in April. “The council also wants to be exceedingly clear: We have only approved a pilot program. We will assess this program over the course of this next year and decide its future.”

Anderson and DeCleene are two of only three athletes nationwide currently in the program, whose participation requires NCAA approval on an individual basis. The opportunity surprised both athletes.

DeCleene and Anderson participated in their teams’ postseason senior activities as sophomores last year because they assumed they wouldn’t be able to continue competing once they transferred. They joined St. Norbert seniors in giving speeches at the postseason banquet, where they also received banners typically given to seniors.

Anderson remembers St. Norbert track coach Don Augustine pulling her aside

when she was thanking him for all he’d done for her the last two years.

“He said, ‘You know, there might be a way for you to continue competing,’” Anderson said. “I was taken aback by it because this whole time I had come to the acceptance that I wasn’t going to be able to.”

DeCleene got a similar message.

“I immediately went into the next room and I just started happy-crying to all my teammates,” DeCleene said. “I immediately called my parents and I was like, ‘I can run.’ I was just so excited. I had a grin on my face the rest of the day. I just couldn’t stop smiling.”

The transfer portal has changed everything about building rosters in college sports, with name, image and likeness compensation also playing a huge role in Division I. Earlier this year, Albany men's basketball coach Wayne Killings informally floated the idea of players coming to his program for seasoning before going back to their schools better prepared to compete at a higher level.

DeCleene and Anderson are now pioneers in an unusual experiment, attending classes on one campus while participating in practices and meets at another school.

“Athletically, it’s a little bit

of a challenge,” St. Norbert assistant athletic director for compliance Mike Wallerich said. “You have to be flexible with your schedules. The coaches, too, not just the athletes.”

DeCleene said she runs on her own for an average of about 5-6 miles two days each week during cross country season to make up for St. Norbert team practices she’s unable to attend due to her coursework at Bellin.

The situation is trickier for Anderson, who competes in field events. She doesn’t have the equipment or land at home to practice throwing a javelin or discus. Anderson noted that she can practice her footwork on her own when she can’t throw.

Anderson said the opportunity to continue playing sports remains well worth it even the schedule juggling.

“One of the things that really pushed me through high school was being a four-sport athlete,” Anderson said. “I’m very blessed to be able to continue competing throughout college. Even if it’s not as much as I thought it would be because I can’t make every practice, it’s still

very nice to get the opportunity to continue.”

Scheduling make this pilot program more feasible for athletes in some sports than others.

“For soccer practice or basketball or football practice, you can’t really do multiple days a week where you’re on your own,” Augustine said. “I think it’s going to benefit some of the individual sports. If you get a golfer or a tennis player or track and field or cross country athletes, some of those sports are going to see a little bit of a bump maybe more than some of the team sports.”

While the NCAA has emphasized this is only a test of this program, DeCleene says she’d like to see it become more widespread. She wants more athletes to have this chance.

“It truly is the best of both worlds,” DeCleene said. “Up until this point, it was thought you could only pursue your academic career or your athletic goals. Now this program is proof you are able to wear both hats and grow and flourish in both areas, to experience your full potential without any limits essentially.”

VILLWOCK

FROM PAGE B1

on his family.

“I’m beyond excited to be back in H1 Unlimited racing, especially with BWR Racing. Stepping away in 2022 to focus on my family was the right decision, but the passion for this sport never left,” Shane said in a release. “(Team owner) Bruce (Ratchford) and his team have built something truly impressive, and I’m grateful for the opportunity to contribute to that vision. I’m coming back motivated, focused, and ready to give everything I’ve got.”

“I was privileged and excited to help get the new team BWR started last year and was blessed with another Gold Cup win, which would be the first for this fantastic new team,” Villwock said in a statement released by the team. “I committed to drive for one year, which is complete, and I couldn’t have asked for more.

“After over 30 years of driving these awesome boats it’s time to step away and enjoy some other passions like family, home, and model airplanes — all of which helped

me enjoy the successes I’ve had over the years,” Villwock, who during his career piloted perennial winners like Miss Budweiser, Miss E-Lam Plus, and the Spirit of Qatar, added. “I owe so much to so many including my lovely wife. I so enjoyed racing boats for Apollo, the Ratchford family and all the Apollo employees at all the Apollo companies.

“I wish Jimmy Shane and all the BWR team members the very best and will be there to help anytime Bruce or the BWR team needs it,” he concluded. “Thank you to all the fans and race team members for all of their support and dedication for so many years.”

“Dave’s experience, focus, and attention to detail were instrumental in helping BWR Racing take shape and succeed right out of the gate,” said Ratchford, who also owns team sponsor Apollo Mechanical. “His knowledge of the boats, his calm confidence under pressure, and his commitment to excellence set the tone for our entire program. We’re grateful for everything he’s brought to our team and wish him all the best as he transitions into this next chapter.”

Shane’s 25 career wins are

tied with Dean Chenoweth for fourth-most in the history of the sport. Twenty of those wins came while driving for Miss Madison Racing from 2014-2022 — equipment BWR purchased prior to the 2025 season to help launch its team.

“Signing one of the greatest and most accomplished drivers in H1 Unlimited is a statement of intent,” Ratchford said. “Jimmy’s record, character, and commitment to excellence align perfectly with our team’s values and goals. We are proud to welcome him to BWR Racing as we look ahead to what will be a defining season. I’m incredibly proud of the group of drivers we have under contract. Each one brings something unique to our program, and together, they represent the strength, depth, and future of our organization and sport.”

Shane joins a BWR Racing Team that includes defending national champion Andrew Tate. The team owns two former Miss Madison hulls, the 2007-vintage “Sharky” hull and the 2018 “T-7” hull, both of which Shane drove during his tenure with Miss Madison Racing. The team said that it will announce boat assignments at a later date.

MADISON COURIER
CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

Publication Date

Deadline

Tuesday

Thursday 4 PM

Friday

Tuesday 4 PM

Contact Customer Service at

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EMPLOYMENT

Position Description

Switzerland County Prosecutor's Office

Position: Child Support IV-D Administrator

Work Schedule: Courthouse Hours

Status: Full Time

Duties:

The Child Support IV-D Administrator is responsible for assisting the Switzerland County Prosecutor's Office in the establishment and enforcement of child support under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act. This position prepares child support files and a variety of court pleadings as directed and performs other duties as assigned. The Child Support, IV-D Administrator is charged with maintaining court calendars, and assists with paternity establishment procedures, including scheduling appointments for DNA testing. Additionally, this position enters, tracks, and updates case management and financial data in the Indiana State Enforcement Tracking System (ISETS). This position also assists with out-of-state child support orders using the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA). This position will require intensive training regarding the implementation of digital platforms ISETS. The Child Support, IV-D Administrator is also required to interact with members of the public, and various agencies ranging from state agents, caseworkers, attorneys, and intra-county departments. The Child Support, IV-D Administrator is responsible for testifying, under oath, in legal proceedings as necessary. This position includes other duties as assigned.

Skills:

The Child Support, IV-D Administrator should have excellent written and oral communication skills. Applicants should be proficient in data entry programming, including, but not limited to, Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel. Applicants must have the ability to multi-task and work with others in a team environment and must be able to follow office procedures. Applicants must be able to competently serve the public with respect. Importantly, applicant must abide protocol and absolute discretion in maintaining confidential information.

Requirements:

Applicants must have High School Diploma or GED

Applicants must have valid driver's license

Please submit a resume, and cover letter to Ryan Marshall, Switzerland County Prosecutor at po@switzerland.in.gov

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PROVED \$62,900
NABB 2+ ACRES
OPEN/FLAT WITH TREES
SEPTIC APPROVED UTILS
AT RD \$39,900
LITTLE YORK 3+ ACRES
WOODED PRIVATE SEPTIC
APPROVED UTILS ROAD
\$51,900
LEXINGTON 3 ¾ ACRES ALL
WOODS ON HARDY MILL
ROAD \$39,900



Historic District Board of Review Legal Notice
MEETING DATE: November 24, 2025, at 5:30 PM
MEETING PLACE: Madison City Hall, 101 W. Main Street Madison, IN 47250
STREAMING LINK: www.youtube.com/@City-ofMadisonIndianaGovernment
A. Roll Call
B. Approval of Minutes
C. Tabled Applications
· Tom McPherson – C. of A. to remove rear addition and re-place with deck, extending porch along front of structure, enlarging window on south-side wall in front room. Location: 123 Jefferson St. Zoned: Central Business District (CBD)
· Annette Fultz – C. of A. to re-place rotting wood windows with aluminum clad windows and demolish garage at rear of property. Location: 421 Mill St. Zoned: Historic District Residential (HDR)
· Carolina and Ken Mackinlay – C. of A. to replace windows. Location: 1229 W. Main St. Zoned: Historic District Residential (HDR)
· Orbin Ash – C. of A. to build a 20'x30' pole barn. Location: 608 W. Third St. Zoned: Historic District Residential (HDR)
D. New Applications
· Gary Taylor – C. of A. to build a new one-story house on the lot. Location: 205 St. Michaels Ave. Zoned: Historic District Residential (HDR)
· John Schuring – C. of A. to replace non-original wood windows with wood aluminum-clad windows. Location: 1063 W. Main St. Zoned: Residential Medium Density (R-8)
· Brenda Cooper – C. of A. to remove historic stucco to expose brick. Location: 307 West St. Zoned: Central Business District (CBD)
E. New/Old Business
F. Staff Report
G. Adjournment
H. Next Meeting: December 16, 2025, at 5:30 PM
For the purpose of hearing those who are for or against said applications, a public hearing will be held on Monday, November 24, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall, 101 W. Main Street, Madison, IN 47250.
This agenda is in DRAFT FORM. Open Door Law does not prohibit the public agency from changing or adding to its agenda during the meeting.
BY ORDER OF THE HISTORIC DISTRICT BOARD OF REVIEW
Brenna Haley, Historic Preservationist
Board Members Appointing Authority Term of Appointment
Chris Cody Mayor
04/08/2025-12/31/2025
Happy Smith Mayor
12/26/2023-12/31/2026
Jed Skillman Mayor
01/23/2024-12/31/2026
Jared Anderson Mayor
02/05/2025-12/31/2025
Ryan Rodgers Mayor
02/05/2025-12/31/2027
Ken McWilliams Mayor
01/04/2024-12/31/2026
William Jewell Mayor
04/22/2024-12/31/2025
City of Madison acknowledges its responsibility to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. In order to assist individuals with disabilities who require special services (i.e. sign interpretative services, alternative audio/visual devices, etc.) for participation in or access to City sponsored public programs, services and/or meetings, the City requests that individuals make requests for these services forty-eight (48) hours ahead of the scheduled program, service and/or meeting. To make arrangements, contact ADA Coordinator at 812-265-8300.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EVENTS
na Skylark Trio
The Picker House, 110 St. Michaels Avenue, Madison
Sunday, Nov. 9, 3 p.m.
Madison Performing Arts Foundation presents na Skylark, a Central-Kentucky-based trio performs ancient traditional Celtic music through voice, Irish harp, Irish uilleann pipes, Irish fiddle, Irish whistles, flutes, Irish bodhran and Appalachian mountain dulcimer. Free. Donations appreciated.

St. Cecilia Arts Festival
Christ Episcopal Church, 506 Mulberry St., Madison
Friday, Nov. 21, 7 p.m.
Program honoring St. Cecilia, the patron saint of music and arts. Free. Donations appreciated.

BLOOD DRIVE
Red Cross Blood Drive
Jefferson County Public Library
420 West Main St., Madison
Friday, Nov. 14, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Appointment times may be scheduled before arriving by calling 800-733-2767, going to redcrossblood.org, or downloading the Blood Donor App.

FUNDRAISERS
Kent Volunteer Fire Department Fish Fry
Saturday, Nov. 8, 4-8 p.m.

Event to support the Kent Volunteer Fire Department.

FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS
Salvation Army Food Bank
331 East Main Street, Madison
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, Noon-1 p.m.
A food giveaway at the red door on east side of building. Bring your own bags.
For more information, call 812-265-2157.

House of Hope Food Pantry
100 East Second Street, Madison
Tuesdays 5-7 p.m.; Fridays, 9-11 a.m.
A food giveaway and distribution at the Jefferson County

House of Hope Food Pantry in downtown Madison.
Please arrive at the pantry 15 minutes prior to closing to be served.

North Madison Christian Church Food Pantry
1400 East State Road 62
Saturday, Nov. 15, 8-10 a.m.
A food distribution at the church on the fourth Saturday of each month (with the exception of holidays).
Free with no qualifications.

CLOTHING DISTRIBUTIONS
Jesus Clothes Closet
Trinity United Methodist

Church
412 West Main Street, Madison
Mondays, 9-11 a.m.
Jesus Clothes Closet distributes free clothing to those in need.
For more information, call 812-866-4843.



LEGAL NOTICE

Jefferson Circuit Court
STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE JEFFERSON CIRCUIT COURT) SS: COUNTY OF JEFFERSON) ESTATE NUMBER 39C01-2510-EU-000072

IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE) OF EARL K. WRIGHT, JR., DECEASED.)

William Joseph Jenner, JENNER, PATTISON & SHARPE, 508 E. Main Street, Madison, IN 47250; (812) 265-5132

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, INDIANA IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF EARL K. WRIGHT, JR., DECEASED.
Notice is hereby given that Nicholas Wright and Ryan Wright were, on the 23rd day of October, 2025, appointed personal representatives of the estate of Earl K. Wright, Jr., deceased, who died on the 20th day of September, 2025.
All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
Dated at Madison, Indiana, this 23rd day of October, 2025.

Tabatha Eblen
Clerk of the Circuit Court of Jefferson County, IN



LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION
Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of Jefferson County, Indiana, that the proper legal officers of the County Council meet at 620 Green Road the EMA Building at 5:30 p.m. DATE 11-18-2025 will consider the following for the current year.

Fund/ADDITIONAL
1138 Cum Cap Development \$35,000.00
1000 County Gen \$5,969.00
1170 Public Safety \$24900
1142 Cum Jail \$1,111.00
1119 Clerks Record Prep \$50,000.00

Taxpayers appearing at the meeting shall have a right to be heard. The reduction of appropriations as finally made will be referred to the Department of Local Government Finance Department.

Heather Huff,
Jefferson County, Auditor



LEGAL NOTICE

The Jefferson County Public Library Board of Trustees will meet at 4:00 P.M. on Thursday, November 13, 2025 at 420 West Main Street, Madison, Indiana. The first item on the agenda will be a public hearing for the Internet and Computer Use Policy.

Board Members
Kelly Joyce, President; appointed by Madison Schools 7/1/24-6/30/2028
Mary Kay Butler, Vice-President; appointed by Madison Schools 7/1/22-6/30/2026
Sally Wurtz, Secretary; appointed by Jefferson County Council 7/1/23-6/30/2027
Kathy Rosenberg appointed by Jefferson County Council 7/1/24-6/30/2028
Kathy Crafton, appointed by Jefferson County Commissioners 7/1/24-6/30/2028
Robyn Ryle, appointed by Southwestern Schools 7/1/22-6/30/2026
Terry Phillips, appointed by Jefferson County Commissioners 7/1/22-6/30/2026



LEGAL NOTICE

State of Indiana
Jefferson County Trial Court
300 E. Main, Madison, Indiana

In the Matter of the Marriage of: James R. O'Riley, Petitioner, and Bonna O'Riley, Respondent. Case Number: 39C01-2508-DN-851

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PETITION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE

To: Bonna L. O'Riley
You are hereby notified that a Petition for Dissolution of Marriage has been filed against you in the above court. You have been sued by your spouse for dissolution of marriage. The case is pending in the court named above. If you do not respond by December 20, 2025, the Court may proceed in your absence, and a Decree of Dissolution of Marriage may be entered against you by default. The Decree may include provisions regarding child custody, child support, parenting time, distribution of assets, and payment of debts. If you wish to respond or have any questions regarding this matter, please contact: Tabatha Eblen, Clerk
Phone: 812-265-8922 Ext. 1558
Dated: October 25, 2025



LEGAL NOTICE

THE SWITZERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ARE ACCEPTING BIDS

The Switzerland County Board of Commissioners is accepting bids for snow removal at the Courthouse, Jail, Tech Center, Health Department, and County Emergency Rescue Building.

Environmentally friendly salt should be used.

Bids are due to the Auditor's office by Friday, November 21st, by 4:30 p.m.



LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF INDIANA
IN THE JEFFERSON COUNTY COURT
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON
CASE NO. 39C01-2510-MI-1000

IN RE THE MATTER OF: Kayla Brienne Cyrus
Petitioner
NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Kayla Brienne Cyrus, whose mailing address is: 277 November Street Hanover, Indiana 47243, in the Jefferson County, Indiana, hereby gives notice that Kayla Brienne Cyrus has filed a petition in the Jefferson County Court requesting that their name be changed to Kay Birdy Partin. Notice is further given that the hearing will be held on said Petition on: Wednesday, December 3, 2025 @ 11:30am

Kayla Brienne Cyrus
Petitioner
Date 10/10/25
/s/ Tabatha Eblen
County Clerk: Jefferson (SEAL)

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DeVries injects new renewed hope for Hoosiers

BY MICHAEL MAROT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BLOOMINGTON, Ind.is — Indiana coach Darian DeVries rekindled some old memories Wednesday night by patrolling the Assembly Hall sideline in a crimson-colored Adidas quarter-zip, his son dressed in the traditional cream tank top and shorts with no name on the back.

Everything else seemed refreshingly new.

From the completely revamped roster to the Hoosiers up-tempo style, their strong 3-point shooting performance to a harassing defense, DeVries' debut had hopeful Indiana fans thinking it was a smash hit.

“I thought tonight was pretty special,” DeVries said after the 98-51 victory. “You know a regular season game certainly has a different feel and vibe than an exhibition game, and I was a little worried tonight that our guys were going to be too excited because they were so ready, so pumped to be out there. It's just one of those special places, there's not much like it in college basketball.”

The DeVries family couldn't have asked for anything more.

When the coach was introduced, the smaller-than-usual crowd roared as the five national championship banners waved high above the north baseline seats. The



Darron Cummings/AP Photo

Indiana head coach Darian DeVries questions a call during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game against Alabama A&M, Wednesday, Nov. 5, in Bloomington, Ind.

eighth man now given a chance to add No. 6 since Bob Knight's firing 25 years ago instead will settle for winning his third straight season opener at different schools — Drake, West Virginia and now Indiana.

Hey, it's just a start.

DeVries' son, Tucker, meanwhile had 18 points, 11 rebounds and four assists in his first game back since suffering a season-ending injury last season just eight games into last season. The two-time Missouri Valley Conference Player of the Year, who followed his father from West Virginia, also eclipsed the 2,000-point mark and finished the night with 2,004 in his career. The younger

DeVries waved proudly to the crowd when the accomplishment was recognized during a timeout with 2:51 to play.

His dad had a different thought.

“I recognize the fact he just doubled me up in points, so I didn't how to feel in the moment,” DeVries joked when asked about his emotion to the feat. “But, yeah, when you get an individual accomplishment like that it's usually a credit to good teammates. It's a credit to the work you put in, trying to perfect what you do. So in his case, I just think he worked hard for all of that.”

Hoosier fans were understandably uncertain

about what to expect from this roster, which had no scorers returning from last season and a collection of players out of the transfer portal, most of whom never played together until arriving in Bloomington, Indiana.

It didn't take long for those concerns to dissipate as many longtime season ticket holders watched DeVries calmly direct what started as an overly aggressively, foul-prone defense to finds its proper spots.

Once they did, the Hoosiers settled down and DeVries settled in to seize control.

They used an early 14-0 run to start pulling away, sealed it by closing the first half on a 15-4 spurt and then capped it early in the second half with a perfectly executed pass off the glass from Tayton Conerway to the trailing Reed Bailey for a dunk, the kind of fun, highlight reel play that typifies today's college basketball world.

And when it was over, the humble DeVries walked down the handshake line toward the student section to begin a new tradition in Indiana basketball — giving a trademark thumbs up to the crowd before leaving the court.

“Certainly, it's a privilege for us to be out there performing, so I'm thankful we got that opportunity,” he said. “It was a fun night, a special night and, hopefully, the first of many.”



Michael Conroy/AP Photo

Purdue guard Jack Benter (14) is tied up by Evansville forward AJ Casey (23) and forward Trent Hundley (45) during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game in West Lafayette, Ind., Tuesday, Nov. 4.

Loye, Smith lead No. 1 Purdue rout of Aces

BY MICHAEL MAROT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Fletcher Loyer opened his final college season by scoring a career high 30 points and preseason All-American Braden Smith added 11 assists as Purdue protected its first preseason No. 1 ranking with a rousing 82-51 season-opening rout over Evansville on Tuesday night.

Loyer was 8 of 11 from the field and made seven 3-pointers. Smith scored just six points but passed former Illinois star Bruce Douglas for third on the Big Ten's career assists list. Smith increased his total to 769, four more than Douglas. Former Michigan State guard Matten Cleaves is second at 816.

Purdue has won 33 consecutive non-conference home games — this one despite playing without preseason all-conference forward Trey Kaufman-Renn, who missed the game with an injured hip.

Joshua Hughes had 15

points and AJ Casey added 14 for Evansville, which faced the Boilermakers for the first time in 20 years. Defending Missouri Valley Conference Defensive Player of the Year Connor Turnbull also sat out for an undisclosed reason.

Without Turnbull, Purdue made this one look easy even though it played raggedly at times — missing shots at the rim, struggling to grab rebounds and just getting into a normal flow.

But the Boilermakers managed to take control with an early 11-0 run and then closed the first half by scoring the final five points to make it 41-22. They started the second half on a 12-0 spurt that made it 53-22 as Hall of Fame coach Gene Keady and former Purdue guard Lance Stephenson watched from the stands.

The Boilermakers were 13 of 29 on 3s.

UP NEXT

Evansville: Heads home to take on Calumet College of St. Joseph on Friday.

Purdue: Hosts Oakland on Friday.

No. 9 UK opens with sloppy win over Nicholls

BY COLE PARKE
THE CATS' PAUSE

LEXINGTON, KY. — No. 9 Kentucky men's basketball kicked off its 2025 season with a sloppy victory over Nicholls 77-51 inside Rupp Arena.

It was not the ideal start for the Cats on Tuesday, who were quite poor offensively in the first half of the game with Mark Pope utilizing the same starting lineup as the dreaded Georgetown exhibition.

Denzel Aberdeen did make his return for the Cats, though Jaland Lowe remained out, but did not start on a team that finished the first half with just 28 points, going 10-of-31 from the floor, 2-16 from beyond the arch and 6-13 from the free throw line.

“We tried to do a good job of making them play one on one,” Nicholls Head Coach Tevon Saddler said about limiting Kentucky's effectiveness from beyond the arch. “We know they wanted to come in and shoot a ton of threes. We wanted to make them beat us with contested twos.”

There wasn't a single Wildcat who looked stellar in the first half, with the leader being a tie between Aberdeen (2-4, 1-3, 5 points) and Jasper Johnson (2-4, 0-2, 5 points).

Luckily for the Kentucky faithful, the highly-spoken of UK defense did enough in the first half against an overmatched Nicholls squad to keep the Colonels down and the second half was like night and day.

In the second half, Kentucky bounced back with 49 points, going 19-of-31 from the field and 5-11 from beyond the arch. Kentucky would also be a bit improved from the charity



Darrell Bird/The Cats' Pause

Mo Dioubate looks for the open man during Kentucky's season opening game against Nicholls Tuesday night at Rupp Arena.

stripe in the second half, going 6-9. Still, none of these figures dropped jaws or seemed overly impressive, especially compared to last season's offensive threats.

“All we do is work on the defensive end right now,” Pope said. “So... we're gonna have to spend a little time on the offensive end. We'll be really good there, we just weren't in the first half.”

Collin Chandler was the overall leading scorer for the Wildcats, finishing with 15 points after an 11-point second half, while Otega Oweh also finished with 13, Johnson had 11 and Aberdeen had 10.

“I thought Collin started off the game elite defensively,

none of us had much of a rhythm offensively,” Pope said. “It was nice to see him find some comfort level on the offensive end late too.”

On the defensive side of the ball, Kentucky held the Colonels to just 30.2% shooting, going 16.7% from beyond the arch. It would eventually be a 26-point victory for Pope's Cats, who entered favored by 30.5.

Another major storyline from the contest was the injury of Trent Noah, who went down in the first half with an apparent lower leg injury. He was helped off the court and the playing surface altogether before returning at halftime to do movement drills and runs.

Noah would not see game action in the second half.

For the game, Kentucky would finish the night 29-62 (46.8%) from the field, 7-27 (25.9%) from beyond the arch and 12-22 (54.5%) on free throws.

Kentucky return to action Friday to host Valparaiso in Rupp Arena at 7 p.m. The game will stream on SEC Network+.

The Bond Illusion: Why ‘Safe’ May Not Be Safe Enough in Retirement



Layin' it on the line

By Stephen Dybwad
Retirement Planning/
Wealth Management

The Bond Illusion: Why ‘Safe’ May Not Be Safe Enough in Retirement is a critical concept that challenges long-held assumptions about how to protect wealth in retirement. For decades, bonds have been seen as the go-to safe investment, especially for retirees looking to reduce risk and generate income. But the financial landscape has changed, and so too must our understanding of what “safe” truly means. Bonds are often marketed as low-risk, conservative assets that provide stability and predictable income. While that may have been true in the past, today's low interest rate environment and rising inflation pose real

threats to bondholders. When interest rates rise, the market value of existing bonds falls-meaning retirees holding those bonds may be sitting on paper losses, even as their income remains fixed. In other words, your “safe” investment could actually be losing value right when you need it to be most reliable. Inflation adds another layer of risk. If a bond is paying 3% interest while inflation is running at 4% or more, you're actually losing purchasing power. Over time, this erodes your ability to maintain your lifestyle, cover health care costs, or respond to financial surprises. Bonds may protect your principal nominally, but they don't protect what your money can buy-and that's what really matters in retirement. Then there's the income side. Many retirees depend on the predictable interest from bonds to cover living expenses. But in recent years, yields have dropped to the point where bonds no longer generate sufficient income without taking on more duration or credit risk. Chasing higher yields can push retirees into riskier territory-defeating the purpose of holding bonds in the first place. So, what's the alternative? This is where safe money strategies such as fixed

indexed annuities come into play. These financial tools offer protection of principal, tax-deferred growth, and in many cases, guaranteed lifetime income. Unlike bonds, they are not directly impacted by rising interest rates or market volatility. They offer the kind of dependable security many retirees believe bonds provide-but without the hidden risks. The illusion is that bonds are always safe. The reality is that in today's economic environment, they may not be safe enough. True safety in retirement means protecting your income, your purchasing power, and your peace of mind. It's time to rethink what “safe” really means.

Stephen Dybwad, a long-time Hoosier resident, is a member of Syndicated Columnists, a national organization committed to a fully transparent approach to money management. Syndicated Columnists is the sole provider of this material, both written and conceptual, for this column. All rights reserved.

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Bengals' nightmare season reaches midpoint

BY JOE REEDY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI — It's ironic that one of the roads in front of the Cincinnati Bengals' stadium is named Elm Street.

Given the Bengals' season, marked by Joe Burrow's Week 2 toe injury and a struggling defense, it has been quite a nightmare for fans used to disappointment.

After a 33-31 win over the Steelers on Oct. 16, optimism remained for the Bengals. Their next two home games against the Jets and Bears seemed winnable, offering a chance to climb above .500 and rejoin the AFC North race.

However, that optimism quickly faded.

Zac Taylor's squad heads into the bye week following two devastating losses and a 3-6 mark. After blowing a 15-point fourth-quarter lead and falling to the Jets 39-38, the Bengals' two-touchdown comeback in the final two minutes against Chicago went for naught. Caleb Williams connected with Colston Loveland for a 58-yard touchdown with 17 seconds left, giving the Bears a 47-42 victory.

The losses made the Bengals the first team since the 1966 New York Giants to score at least 38 points in

consecutive games and lose both.

For a fan base wanting changes, Taylor said defensive coordinator Al Golden and his staff will remain in place.

“We've been through this situation many years and come out the other side, playing for championships, winning divisions, by sticking with what we believe in and not doing what everybody wants you to do,” Taylor said when asked why the status quo should be acceptable. “I'm thankful that in 2020 that they didn't kick me out of here, so we were able to go to the Super Bowl the next year.

Colts trade for Jets star CB Sauce Gardner

BY DENNIS WASZAK JR.
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

The New York Jets pulled off a stunner by saying so long to Sauce Gardner.

The star cornerback, one of the team's most popular and accomplished players, was traded to the Indianapolis Colts on Tuesday for a first-round draft pick in 2026 and another in 2027, along with wide receiver Adonai Mitchell, pending physicals.

“Having the opportunity to acquire a talented player like Sauce Gardner was one we did not want to pass on,” Colts general manager Chris Ballard said in a statement.

Gardner, an All-Pro selection in his first two seasons, signed a four-year, \$120.4 million contract extension with the Jets in July and appeared to be a cornerstone player for new coach Aaron Glenn and general manager Darren Mougey.

“New York it's been real,” Gardner posted with a green heart emoji on X.

It was the first of two massive trades by Mougey before the deadline Tuesday. New York also agreed to trade defensive lineman Quinnen Williams to Dallas for a second-round pick in 2026, a first-round pick in 2027 and defensive tackle Mazi Smith.

“We got to today and had these offers that we just felt were too good for the team, and we made that with Sauce and Quinnen,” Mougey said.

Gardner was the No. 4 overall pick in the 2022 NFL draft out of Cincinnati and quickly established himself as one of the league's top cornerbacks during his first two seasons with the Jets. He was selected the AP Defensive Rookie of the Year and made the All-Pro team in consecutive years — the only cornerback



Kin Cheung/AP Photo

New York Jets cornerback Sauce Gardner (1), gestures during an NFL football practice at The Grove in Watford, England, Friday, Oct. 10.

to do so in his first two seasons since the 1970 merger — for then-coach Robert Saleh and defensive coordinator Jeff Ulbrich.

He had a slightly down year, by his standards, last season and was excited to play for Glenn and defensive coordinator Steve Wilks. The Jets rewarded Gardner with the big extension in July that made him the NFL's highest-paid cornerback. It came just 24 hours after New York also gave a massive extension to wide receiver Garrett Wilson, who was selected by the team six picks after Gardner.

Gardner got off to an up-and-down start this season, but was mostly solid since before missing the team's win at Cincinnati with a concussion.

“When it came down to the last couple of days,” Mougey said, “Indianapolis kept getting richer and richer with their value and eventually, it was too good to pass up.”

Gardner now goes from a Jets team coming off winning its first game after opening with seven losses to a Colts

squad that has been one of the NFL's biggest surprises with a 7-2 start that ties Indianapolis with New England and Denver for the most victories in the AFC.

“He was a player that we scouted heavily coming out of college and there's a reason he was the fourth overall pick,” Ballard said. “Sauce is a proven cornerback. His skill and competitive nature will elevate everyone's play on the defensive unit. We're thrilled he's a Colt.”

Indy scrambled to plug holes in its injury-riddled secondary even before the regular season started. The Colts signed free agents Charvarius Ward and Cam Bynum during the offseason to revamp a unit that struggled last season. The Colts even tried cornerback Xavien Howard, who did not play in 2024, after losing two promising rookies — safety Hunter Wohler and cornerback Justin Walley — with season-ending injuries in training camp.

Howard retired after playing



Seth Wenig/AP Photo

Carolina Panthers wide receiver Tetairoa McMillan (4) is tackled by New York Jets cornerback Sauce Gardner (1) and linebacker Jamien Sherwood (44) during the second quarter of an NFL football game, Sunday, Oct. 19, in East Rutherford, N.J.

just four games. Ward is on injured reserve after suffering a concussion in a collision during pregame warmups on Oct. 12.

Indy's latest attempt to find a solution came last weekend when third-year cornerback Jaylon Jones was activated off injured reserve. He played reasonably well in a loss to Pittsburgh, but the defense's performance in that game demonstrated the Colts still needed to reinforce their biggest weakness on the team — the secondary.

Gardner could fit the bill. The trade evoked memories of the deal New York made in 2012 when it sent Darrelle Revis – to whom Gardner was often compared for his ability to shut down receivers – to Tampa Bay in 2013 for two draft picks, including a first-rounder.

New York is shuffling its secondary in the middle of

its poor season. The Jets traded for cornerback Jarvis Brownlee Jr. last month, acquiring the 2024 fifth-rounder from Tennessee in September, and dealt nickel cornerback Michael Carter II to Philadelphia last Wednesday. The addition of Mitchell, the Colts' second-round pick last year out of Texas, gives the Jets a boost to their thin wide receiver group. Wilson has been dealing with a knee injury that has sidelined him the past two games. New York has been looking for someone to step up as a clear No. 2 to complement Wilson and help quarterback Justin Fields. The Jets also added John Metchie III in a trade with Philadelphia last week.

The Colts had high hopes for Mitchell when they drafted him and thought he could push another young receiver, Alec Pierce — a former college teammate of Gardner — to

fulfill his potential.

Pierce responded by averaging a league-high 22.3 yards per catch last season and is second in the NFL this season at 20.9 yards.

Mitchell, however, disappointed. Just when Mitchell appeared to be emerging this season, his progression was stalled by a big blunder — dropping the ball before crossing the goal line against the Los Angeles Rams, costing him the first score of his career and resulting in a touchback. Indy lost 27-20.

In the Colts' five games since that embarrassing blunder, Mitchell has appeared in four with two catches for 15 yards.

“AD Mitchell is a great person and a great player,” Ballard said. “We believe he will have success in New York, and we wish him the best as he enters the next chapter of his career.”

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